

Cambridge English Qualifications

B2 First and B2 First for Schools exams summary

	READING & USE OF ENGLISH	WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING
Time	1 hour 15 minutes	1 hour 20 minutes	about 40 minutes	14 minutes per pair
Parts	7	2	4	4
Questions	52	n/a	30	n/a
Assessment focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand a range of texts such as fiction, newspapers, and magazines control of appropriate grammar and vocabulary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> produce two different pieces of writing: a compulsory essay, and one other chosen from a variety of text types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand a range of spoken material such as news programmes, presentations and everyday conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ability to communicate with the examiner, the other candidate, and by themselves

Recommended for B2 First and B2 First for Schools exams

Gold Experience 2nd Edition



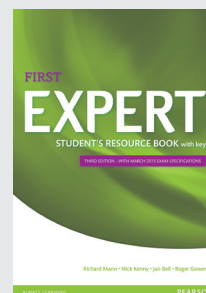
Gold Experience 2nd Edition B2 First for Schools provides engaging content that equips students to succeed in both the *B2 First for Schools* exam, and their upcoming young adult lives. The *B1+ Pre-First for Schools* helps bridge the gap from *B1 Preliminary*.

Gold New Edition



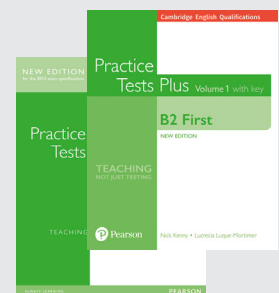
Gold New Edition B2 First provides communicative exam focused preparation and exam training with an emphasis on personalisation. *B1+ Pre-First* is an extra step to prepare students for *B2 First* exam.

First Expert



First Expert provides intensive exam preparation to help support students as they prepare for the *B2 First* exam.

Practice Tests Plus



Practice Tests Plus B2 First provides realistic exam training, comprehensive guidance and strategies for dealing with each paper.

B2 First and B2 First for Schools exam specification

READING & USE OF ENGLISH

Part	Task	Task Focus	Format	No of questions
1	Multiple-choice cloze	Vocabulary – idioms, collocations, shades of meaning, phrasal verbs, fixed phrases etc.	A text with eight short gaps. Each gap has four multiple-choice options (A, B, C or D).	8
2	Open cloze	Grammar and vocabulary	A text with eight short gaps. Each gap has a word or phrase missing.	8
3	Word formation	Vocabulary - prefixes, suffixes, word forms etc.	A text with eight short gaps. At the end of the line is a 'prompt' word which needs to be changed in some way to complete the sentence correctly.	8
4	Key word transformations	Grammar, vocabulary, and collocation.	Each question consists of a sentence followed by a 'key' word and a second sentence with a gap in the middle. This key word needs to be used to complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.	6
5	Multiple choice	Reading for detail, opinion, tone, purpose, main idea, implication, attitude.	A text with some multiple-choice questions. For each question, there are four options to choose from - A, B, C or D.	6
6	Gapped text	Understanding the structure and development of a text.	A text with numbered gaps which represent missing paragraphs. After the text, the missing paragraphs are shown in a jumbled order. The task is to read the text and the paragraphs and decide which paragraph best fits each gap.	6
7	Multiple matching	Reading for specific information, detail, opinion and attitude.	A series of statements followed by a text either divided into sections or as several short texts. Each statement needs to be matched to the section or text with the relevant information.	10

WRITING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	Word limit
1	Compulsory question: essay	Using language functions, such as evaluating, expressing opinions, hypothesising, justifying, persuading.	An essay giving opinions about the given title, using two ideas given. The third, different idea needs to be added, linked to the title. The title is a subject of general interest – no specialised knowledge is needed.	140 - 190 words
2	Situationally based, contextualised writing task (1 out of 3)	Writing appropriately for genre.	Three tasks to choose from. Genres include article, email/letter, report or review. Information is given about context, topic purpose and target reader.	140 - 190 words

LISTENING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	No of questions
1	Multiple-choice	Listening for feeling, attitude, opinion, purpose, function, agreement, gist and detail.	Eight short extracts from monologues or conversations between interacting speakers. There is one multiple-choice question for each extract with three options (A, B or C).	8
2	Sentence completion	Listening for specific information, stated opinion.	A monologue (which may be introduced by a presenter) lasting approximately 3 minutes. The sentences in each question need to be completed with the missing information heard on the recording.	10
3	Multiple matching	Listening for gist, attitude, opinion, purpose, feeling, main points and detail.	A series of five themed monologues of approximately 30 seconds each. Five correct options need to be selected from a list of eight possible answers.	5
4	Multiple choice	Listening for attitude, opinion, detail, gist, main idea and specific information.	A conversation between two or more speakers of approximately 3–4 minutes. There are seven multiple-choice questions, each with three options (A, B or C).	7

SPEAKING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	Time
1	Interview	General social and interactional language.	Conversation with the examiner. The examiner asks questions and candidates give information about themselves, for example their interests, studies, career, etc.	2 minutes
2	Long turn	Organising a larger piece of speech: comparing, describing, expressing opinions, speculating.	Candidate A receives three pictures and needs to talk about two of them for 1 minute without interruption. The questions are written at the top of the page as a reminder. Next, Candidate B is asked to comment on these three photos. The roles are then reversed.	2 minute per candidate
3	Collaborative task	Sustaining an interaction, exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation, etc.	Conversation with the other candidate. The examiner gives the candidates some material and a task. Candidates have to discuss the material and make a decision regarding the task.	3 minutes
4	Discussion	Expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing.	Further discussion with the other candidate, guided by questions from the examiner, about the topics or issues raised in the task in Part 3.	4 minutes