

Cambridge English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools exams changes

2020 Exam changes guide

- Separated **Reading and Writing** into independent parts
- Increased **Writing** content
- **Reading and Listening**: true/false tasks replaced
- **Speaking**: discussion task revised to bring tests into line with other Cambridge exams

Grades change

Exam grades have changed to be in line with higher level Cambridge English Qualifications

Pass with Distinction	→	A
Pass with Merit	→	B
Pass	→	C

2020 B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools exams summary

	READING	WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING
Time	45 minutes	45 minutes	30 minutes	12 minutes per pair
Parts	6	2	4	4
Questions	32	3	25	n/a
Summary of changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new tasks • some parts are shorter or in different order (current exam: 5 parts, 35 questions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new task • 1 revised task • shorter paper (current exam: 3 parts, 7 questions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new task • some parts are in a different order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 revised task

Recommended for B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools exams

Gold Experience 2nd Edition

Recommended for
B1 Preliminary for Schools



Gold Experience 2nd Edition B1 Preliminary for Schools provides engaging content that equips students to succeed in both the *B1 Preliminary for Schools* exam, and their upcoming young adult lives. The *A2+ Pre-Preliminary for Schools* helps bridge the gap from *A2 Key for Schools*.

Gold New Edition

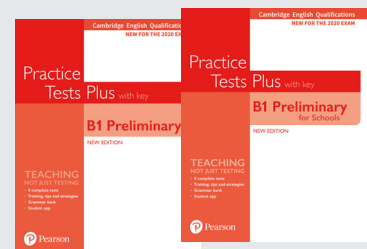
Recommended for
B1 Preliminary



Gold New Edition B1 Preliminary provides communicative exam focused preparation and exam training with an emphasis on personalisation, in line with 2020 *B1 Preliminary* exam requirements.

Practice Tests Plus

Recommended for
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Practice Tests Plus B1 Preliminary provides realistic exam training, comprehensive guidance and strategies for dealing with each paper, in line with the 2020 exam changes.

2020 B1 Preliminary and B1 Preliminary for Schools exam specification

New tasks

Revised tasks

READING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	No of questions
1	Multiple-choice	Reading to understand the main message.	Five separate short texts and one multiple-choice question about each text.	No changes = Part 1 (current exam)	5
2	Matching	Reading to understand specific information and the detailed meaning of descriptions.	Descriptions of five people to match to eight short texts.	No changes = Part 2 (current exam)	5
3	Multiple choice	Understanding of the detailed meaning of the text and attitude/opinions of the writer.	Five multiple-choice questions about a longer text. There are four options (A, B, C or D).	No changes = Part 4 (current exam)	5
4	Gapped text	Reading to understand how texts are organised and sentences relate to each other.	A text with gapped sentences. Decide which sentence best fits each gap.	New task	5
5	Multiple-choice cloze	Reading to understand particular words and phrases and use of words for creating meaning.	A text with six gaps. Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) to complete the gaps.	No changes , but shorter = Part 5 (current exam)	6
6	Open cloze	Reading to understand sentence construction and how words/ phrases relate to each other.	A short text with six open gaps. Add words to complete the text.	New task	6

WRITING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?
1	Email	Focus on writing an email in an appropriate style and responding to the input text.	An email of 100 words in reply to a text, covering the points in that text.	New task This is a longer task (100 words) than the message task in the current paper (35–45 words).
2	Longer piece of continuous writing	Writing using a range of language, creating a well organised text in a particular style.	One story or article of 100 words.	Revised task The article option is instead of the letter option in the current paper.

LISTENING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	No of questions
1	Visual multiple-choice	Understanding specific information and detailed meaning.	Seven short recordings, each with a multiple-choice question and picture options.	No change = Part 1 (current exam)	7
2	Multiple-choice	Understanding gist, ideas and opinions and agreement/disagreement.	Six short recordings with one multiple-choice question for each.	New task	6
3	Gap fill	Listening and recording specific information.	Six gaps in a set of sentences/ notes that need to be completed with words, numbers, or names.	No change = Part 3 (current exam)	6
4	Multiple-choice	Understanding detailed meaning of the interview, including the attitudes and opinions.	Six multiple-choice questions about a longer recording.	No change = Part 2 (current exam)	6

SPEAKING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	Time
1	Introduction	Giving personal information, social conversation.	Questions from the examiner about yourself.	No change = Part 1 (current exam)	2-3 minutes
2	Describing a photograph	Using appropriate vocabulary, organising language to describe what you see.	Individual description of a given photograph.	No change = Part 3 (current exam), but photos may be on different topics	1 minute each
3	Collaborative Task	Maintaining a conversation, responding to others, giving suggestions, discussing alternatives, giving reasons. reasons for your opinions.	Two-way conversation between candidates about a task with visual prompts.	No change = Part 2 (current exam)	2-3 minutes
4	Discussion	Talking about habits, likes/dislikes and giving opinions on a range of topics, explaining reasons.	Discussion of questions asked by the examiner.	Revised task The task based on collaborative task (current exam – based on long turn picture description).	3-4 minutes