

THE FCE EXAM

• The FCE exam consists of four components: Reading & Use of English, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

• Here is the structure for the FCE exam:

PAPER 1: READING & USE OF ENGLISH 1 HOUE 15 MINUTES				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Focus	Format
1	8	Multiple choice cloze	The main focus is on vocabulary, e.g. idioms, collocations, fixed phrases, complementation, phrasal verbs, semantic precision.	A modified cloze test containing 8 gaps. There are 4-option multiple-choice items for each gap.
2	8	Open cloze	The main focus is on awareness and control of grammar with some focus on vocabulary.	A modified cloze test containing eight gaps.
3	8	Word formation	The main focus is on vocabulary, in particular the use of affixation, internal changes and compounding in word formation.	A text containing 8 gaps. Each gap corresponds to a word. The stem of the missing word is given beside the text and must be changed to form the missing word.
4	6	Key word transformation	Grammar, vocabulary, collocation.	6 separate items , each with a lead-in sentence and a gapped second sentence to be completed in 2 to 5 words, one of which is a given 'key' word.
5	6	Multiple choice cloze	Detail, opinion, attitude, tone, purpose, main idea, gist, meaning from context, implication, text organisation features (exemplification, reference)	A text followed by six 4-option multiple-choice questions.
6	6	Gapped text	Cohesion, coherence, text structure.	A text from which sentences have been removed and placed in jumbled order after the text. Candidates must decide from which part of the text the sentences have been removed.
7	10	Multiple matching	Detail, opinion, specific information, implication.	A text or several short texts , preceded by multiple-matching questions. Candidates must match a prompt to elements in the text.
PAPER 2: WRITING 1 HOUR 20 MINUTES				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Focus	Format
1	1	Writing an essay (one compulsory task)	Focus on agreeing or disagreeing with a statement, giving information, opinion, reasons, comparing and contrasting ideas and opinion, drawing a conclusion.	Write 140-190 words. Candidates are required to deal with input of up to 120 words. There is an opening rubric to set the scene, and then an essay question with two given prompts, plus a prompt requiring candidates to write about their own additional idea.
2	1	Writing. Choose one task from a choice of three	Writing one of the following: an article, email/letter, review or report.	Write 140-190 words. A situationally based writing task specified in no more than 70 words.
PAPER 3: LISTENING 40 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Focus	Format
1	8	Multiple choice cloze	The focus is on genre, identifying speaker feeling, attitude, topic, opinion, purpose, agreement between speakers, gist and detail.	A series of short unrelated extracts , of approximately 30 seconds each, from monologues or exchanges between interacting speakers. There is one multiple-choice question per text, each with three options.
2	10	Sentence completion	The focus is on detail, identifying specific information and stated opinion.	A monologue lasting 3–4 minutes. Candidates are required to complete the sentences with information heard on the recording.
3	5	Multiple matching	The focus is on identifying speaker feeling, attitude, detail, gist and opinion.	Five short related monologues of approximately 30 seconds each. There are five questions which require the selection of the correct option from a list of eight.
4	7	Multiple choice	The focus is on identifying opinion, attitude, detail, gist, main idea and specific information.	An interview or exchange between two speakers and lasting 3–4 minutes. There are seven 3-option multiple choice questions.
PAPER 4: SPEAKING 14 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Timing		Task types and interaction	Focus
1	2 minutes		A conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions).	The focus is on general interactional and social language.
2	4 minutes: a 1-minute 'long turn' for each candidate plus a 30-second response from the second candidate.		An individual 'long turn' for each candidate with a response from the second candidate. In turn, the candidates are given a pair of photographs to talk about.	The focus is on organising a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing and expressing opinions.
3	4 minutes: a 2-minute discussion followed by a 1-minute decision-making task.		A two-way conversation between the candidates. The candidates are given spoken instructions with written stimuli, which are used in discussion and decision-making tasks.	The focus is on sustaining an interaction; exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation, etc.
4	4 minutes		A discussion on topics related to the collaborative task (spoken questions).	The focus is on expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing and speculating.