

THE CAE EXAM

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

• Here is the structure for the CAE exam:

PAPER 1: READING & USE OF ENGLISH 1 HOUE 30 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 containing 8 gaps followed by eight 4-option multiple-choice items.
2	8	Open cloze	Awareness and control of grammar with some focus on vocabulary.	A modified cloze test containing eight gaps.
3	8	Word formation	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 stems of the missing words are 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 3 to 6 words, one of which is a given 'key' word.
5	6	Multiple choice	Detail, opinion, attitude, tone, purpose, main idea, gist, implication, text organisation features (exemplification, comparison, reference)	A text followed by six 4-option multiple-choice questions.
6	4	Cross-text multiple matching	Understanding of opinion and attitude; comparing and contrasting of opinions and attitudes across texts.	Four short texts, followed by multiple-matching questions. Candidates must read across texts to match a prompt to elements in the texts.
7	6	Gapped text	Cohesion, coherence, text structure, global meaning.	A text from which paragraphs have been removed and placed in jumbled order after the text. Candidates must decide from where in the text the paragraphs have been removed.
8	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 30 MINUTES				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Format	
1	1	Writing an essay with a discursive focus.	Candidates are required to write an essay, between 220 and 260 words, based on two points given in the input text. They will be asked to explain which of the two points is more important and to give reasons for their option. There is a word limit of between 220-260 words.	
2	1	Writing one from a number of possible text types based on a contextualised writing task.	Candidates have a choice of task. The tasks provide candidates with a clear context, topic, purpose and target reader for their writing. The output text types are: letter/email, proposal, report or review. There is a word limit of between 220-260 words.	
PAPER 3: LISTENING 40 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Focus	Format
1	8	Multiple choice cloze	Feeling, attitude, opinion, purpose, function, agreement, course of action, gist, detail, etc...	Three short extracts from exchanges between interacting speakers with two multiple-choice questions on each extract.
2	10	Sentence completion	Specific information, stated opinion.	A monologue lasting approximately 3 minutes. Candidates are required to complete the sentences with information heard on the recording.
3	5	Multiple choice	Attitude, opinion, agreement, gist, feeling, speaker purpose, function, detail.	A conversation between2 or more speakers of approximately 4 minutes. There are six multiple-choice questions, each with four options.
4	7	Multiple matching	Gist, attitude and opinion, main points, speaker purpose, feeling, interpreting context.	Five short themed monologues, of approximately 30 seconds each. Each multiple-matching taske requires selection of the correct options form a list of eight.
PAPER 4: SPEAKING 15 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Timing		Task types and interaction	Focus
1	2 minutes		A short 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 3 photographs to talk about any 2 of them.	The focus is on organising a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing, expressing opinions and speculating.
3	4 minutes: a 2-minute discussion followed by a 1-minute decision phase. Plus 15 secs. to read the task before starting to speak.		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	5 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.