

## THE CPE EXAM

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

• Here is the structure for the CPE 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.	<b>A single text with 8 gaps.</b> Candidates must choose one word or phrase from a set of four to fill each gap.
2	8	Open cloze	Awareness and control of grammar with some focus on vocabulary.	<b>A modified cloze test</b> consisting of a text with eight gaps. Candidates think of the word which best fits each gap.
3	8	Word formation	Vocabulary, in particular the use of affixation, internal changes and compounding in word formation.	<b>A text containing 8 gaps.</b> 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.	<b>6 discrete items</b> , with a lead-in sentence and a gapped response to complete in 3-8 words including a given 'key' word.
5	6	Multiple choice	Detail, opinion, attitude, tone, purpose, main idea, gist, meaning from context, implication and , text organisation features (exemplification, reference)	<b>A text</b> followed by six 4-option multiple-choce questions.
6	7	Gapped text	Cohesion, coherence, text structure, global meaning.	<b>A text from which paragraphs have been removed</b> and placed in jumbled order after the text. Candidates must decide from where in the text the paragraphs have been removed.
7	10	Multiple matching	Detail, opinion, attitude, specific information.	<b>A text or several short texts</b> , 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	Focus	Format
1	1	<b>Writing a compulsory essay</b>	The task focus is discursive.	<b>Candidates are required to write an essay</b> summarising and evaluating the key ideas contained in two texts of approximately 100 words each. <b>There is a word limit of between 240-280 words.</b>
2	1	<b>Writing</b> (choose one task from a choice of three)	The focus is on writing one of the following: an article, an informal letter, a formal letter, a report or a review.	<b>Contextualised writing tasks</b> , each specified in no more than 70 words. <b>There is a word limit of between 280-320 words.</b>
PAPER 3: LISTENING 40 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Number of questions	Task types	Focus	Format
1	6	Three-option multiple choice	Gist, detail, function, purpose, topic, speaker, feeling, attitude, opinion, etc.	<b>Three short unrelated texts</b> lasting approximately 1 minute each, consisting of either monologues or exchanges between interacting speakers. There are 2 multiple-choice question per text, each with 3 options.
2	9	Sentence completion	Detail and stated opinion.	<b>A monologue</b> lasting 3-4.
3	5	Four-option multiple choice	Opinion, gist, detail, inference and agreement.	<b>A text involving interacting speakers</b> lasting 3-4 minutes.
4	10	Multiple matching	Gist, attitude, main points and interpreting context.	<b>Five short themed monologues</b> , of approximately 35 seconds each. There are two multiple-matching tasks. Each multiple-matching task requires selection of the five correct options from a list of eight.
PAPER 4: SPEAKING 16 MINUTES (APPROX.)				
Part	Timing		Task types and interaction	Focus
1	2 minutes		Conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions).	General interactional and social language.
2	4 minutes		A two-way conversation between the candidates. The candidates are given instructions with written and visual stimuli, which are used in a decision-making task.	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.
3	10 minutes: 2-minute long turn for each candidate and approximately 6 minutes following the long turns.		An individual 'long turn' for each candidate followed by a discussion on topics related to the long turns. Each candidate in turn is given a written question to respond to. The interlocutor leads a discussion to explore further the topics of the long turns.	Organising a larger unit of discourse expressing and justifying opinions, developing topics.