

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations

Key English Test

Information for Candidates



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Information for candidates – KET

Why take the Key English Test (KET)?

Do you have basic English skills? Can you understand simple texts? Can you communicate in familiar situations? Can you understand short notices and simple spoken directions? If so, then the Key English Test (KET) from Cambridge ESOL is the exam for you.

KET is the first-level Cambridge ESOL exam, at Level A2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. KET shows that you can cope with everyday written and spoken communications at a basic level. KET is an excellent first step, helping you to build your confidence in English and measure your progress.

KET uses language from real life situations and covers the four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. It provides an assessment of practical skills, and will help you to learn the English you will need for travelling, as well as in study and work situations.

From 2007, KET will be available in two formats. You will still be able to take the paper and pencil test, but you will be able to choose a computer-based version called CB-KET instead. Please contact your nearest local centre for details.

Why take a Cambridge ESOL exam?

Develop effective communication skills

- The Cambridge ESOL examinations cover all four language skills – listening, speaking, reading and writing. They include a range of tasks which assess your ability to use English, so that you develop the full range of skills you need to communicate effectively in a variety of contexts.

Quality you can trust

- We do extensive research and trialling to make sure that you get the fairest, most accurate assessment of your ability and that our exams are most relevant to the range of uses for which you need English.

Worldwide recognition

- Universities and employers all over the world recognise Cambridge ESOL exams, so a Cambridge ESOL examination is a valuable qualification.

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL) offers the world's leading range of qualifications for learners and teachers of English. Around 1.75 million people in 135 countries take Cambridge ESOL exams each year.

What does KET involve?

This booklet is a brief introduction to KET. We show examples from each part of the test, but in some cases we do not show the full text or all the questions. If you would like to see a full sample paper for KET, you can download one from our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org

The table below shows the different parts of KET and how long each paper takes. In KET, Reading and Writing are combined on one question paper.

<i>Name of paper</i>	<i>Content</i>	<i>Time allowed</i>	<i>Marks (% of total)</i>
Paper 1 Reading and Writing	9 parts/56 questions Reading: Parts 1–5 Writing: Parts 6–9	1 hour 10 minutes	50%
Paper 2 Listening	5 parts/25 questions	30 minutes (including 8 minutes' transfer time)	25%
Paper 3 Speaking	2 parts	8–10 minutes per pair of candidates (2:2 format*)	25%

* 2 examiners, 2 candidates (2:3 format is used for the last group in a session where necessary)

■ Paper 1 Reading and Writing

Time: 1 hour 10 minutes









Paper 1 Reading and Writing consists of nine parts and 56 questions. It is worth 50% of the total marks for the exam.

Part 1 (Questions 1–5)

In this part you have to understand the main message of a sign, notice or other very short text. These texts are usually the kind of text you can find on roads, in railway stations, airports, shops, restaurants, offices, schools, etc. There are also five sentences and you have to match each sentence to one of the texts.

In the example below you have eight signs (labelled A–H) and five sentences which explain what the signs mean. You have to match each sentence to the right sign.

1 You should not swim here.	4 It is cheaper to buy things today than tomorrow.
2 You must not drive fast here.	5 You can drive here next week.
3 You can play football here after lessons.	

A 	E 
B 	F 
C 	G 
D 	H 

Part 2 (Questions 6–10)

This part is a test of vocabulary. You have five sentences and there is a missing word in each one. There are three possible answers and you have to choose the best word to fill each gap.

The example below is part of a simple story about Adrian and Martin who are going camping. Read the sentences and decide which answer (A, B or C) is the correct one. In the exam, there are two more questions like the ones below.

6 They to go camping for their holiday.
A decided B thought C felt
7 They wanted to somewhere near the sea.
A stand B put C stay
8 It three hours to drive to the camp-site.
A had B took C got

Part 3 (Questions 11–15 and 16–20)

In this part we test how well you understand and can use the language you need for everyday life. The first five questions are short conversations. The question is what the first person says and you then have three possible responses. To find the right answer, you have to think what the second person usually says in this situation.

In the example below, there are three typical questions (11–13). For each question, you have to choose the correct answer (A, B or C). In the exam, there are two more questions like this.

11	I'm sorry we don't have your size.	A	What a pity!
		B	I hope so.
		C	I'll take it.
12	How long are you going to stay in Bangkok?	A	For another three weeks.
		B	For the last three weeks.
		C	It took three weeks.
13	See you tomorrow.	A	That's all right.
		B	I can't see.
		C	Don't be late.

The second five questions are part of a longer conversation which has missing sentences. The conversation may take place in a shop, a hotel, a restaurant, etc. or in various work, social or study situations.

In the conversation below Anita is talking to Kim, and you have to decide what Anita says in each case (16–18). You have a list of eight possible sentences (A–H) which you can use to complete the conversation. You have to choose one sentence for each space, so you don't need all of the sentences.

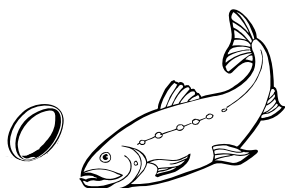
<i>Kim:</i>	What are you going to do at the weekend, Anita?	A	Me, too. I need some books for school and a pair of shoes.
<i>Anita:</i>	H	B	Yes, I have to work on Saturday.
<i>Kim:</i>	Well, I'm going to go to London. Would you like to come as well?	C	I'd love to. I suppose you want to go on Saturday?
<i>Anita:</i>	16	D	Fine. Do we need to book tickets?
<i>Kim:</i>	Yes. I must study on Sunday. Great! It'll be good to go together.	E	I have some money for a new jacket.
<i>Anita:</i>	17	F	What do you want to do there?
<i>Kim:</i>	First, I'd like to go shopping.	G	Yes, I'd like to go to a cinema afterwards.
<i>Anita:</i>	18	H	I don't know.
	...		

Part 4 (Questions 21–27)

This part consists of a longer text (about 230 words) and seven questions. These may be multiple-choice questions with three possible answers (A, B or C) or you may have seven statements and you have to decide if each statement is A – Right, B – Wrong or C – Doesn't say.

In the example below, you have to read the article about a young man and woman who lost a ring. For each of the statements (21–23), you have to decide if it is Right (A), Wrong (B) or if you can't find the information in the text, you should choose C (Doesn't say). In the exam, there are four more questions like the ones below.

THE RING AND THE FISH



Thomas and Inger, who live in Sweden, are the happiest couple in the world. Two years ago, they were on a boat a few kilometres from the beach. Thomas asked Inger to marry him and he gave her a gold ring. He wanted to put the ring on Inger's finger, but he dropped it and it fell into the sea. They were sure the ring was lost for ever.

That is, until last week, when Mr Carlsson visited them. He has a fish shop and he found the ring in a large fish which he was cutting up for one of his customers. The fish thought the ring was something to eat! Mr Carlsson knew that the ring belonged to Thomas and Inger because inside the ring there were some words. They were, 'To Inger, All my love, Thomas'. And so Mr Carlsson gave the ring back to them.

Inger now has two rings. When they lost the first one, Thomas bought Inger another one. But they think the one the fish ate is the best one.

- 21 Thomas asked Inger to marry him when they were on a boat.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 22 Thomas put the gold ring on Inger's finger.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say
- 23 They returned from their boat trip without the ring.
A Right B Wrong C Doesn't say

Part 5 (Questions 28–35)

In this part you have to show that you understand and can use English grammar correctly. There is a text for you to read, but some of the words are missing. These can be verb forms, prepositions, conjunctions, pronouns, etc. For each missing word, there are three possible answers and you have to choose the right one.

The example below is an article about a woman called Jahan Begum. On the next page you can find the first three sets of answers (28–30). You have to choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space. In the exam, there are five more sets of answers like the ones on the next page.

Jahan Begum



Jahan Begum was born on a farm in the hills. She lived there with her family

(28) thirteen years. The family grew their own food and (29) animals. But then one year it didn't rain so they decided to move to (30) country.

The journey (31) the mountains was long and difficult. (32) first home in the new country was a tent. Then Jahan's brothers made a house with wood and stones so the family had somewhere better to live.

Now, (33) day Jahan makes things like hats and socks out of wool. She sells (34) in the market to get money for food. She is happy with her home and her work, but she (35) hopes to return to her farm in the hills one day.

- | | | | | | | |
|----|---|------|---|---------|---|-------|
| 28 | A | for | B | after | C | since |
| 29 | A | keep | B | keeping | C | kept |
| 30 | A | any | B | another | C | that |

Part 6 (Questions 36–40)

The focus of Parts 6–9 of Paper 1 is on writing.

This part is about vocabulary. You have to find the right word for something and spell it correctly. All five words will be from the same topic, for example, jobs, food, things you can find in a house, etc. For each word you have to find, there is a definition in simple English and we give you the first letter of the word to help you.

In the example below, there are some descriptions of people's jobs (36–38) and you have to find the correct word to describe each job. After each sentence, we give you the first letter of each word you have to find. We also show you how long the word is by giving you a dash (–) for each of the remaining letters in the word. In the exam there are two more questions like the ones below.

- | | | |
|----|--|-------------|
| 36 | I show customers the menu and bring them their food. | w _ _ _ _ _ |
| 37 | People come to my shop to buy medicine. | c _ _ _ _ _ |
| 38 | I will repair your car for you. | m _ _ _ _ _ |

Part 7 (Questions 41–50)

This part tests grammar and vocabulary. You have to read a short text which may be a note, and a reply to that note. It may also be a single letter. In the text there are some missing words and you have to find the right word to fill each space. You must spell the words correctly.

In the example below, Peter is on holiday and has written a postcard to his friend, Jane. Read the postcard and try to find the missing words for the spaces (41–50). In the exam, you write your answers on the answer sheet.

Dear Jane,

I'm sitting on the beach at the moment. Soon, I'm (41) to have a swim.

I arrived here three days (42) with my family. We (43) be on holiday together here for two weeks. It (44) a beautiful place. The beach is very near (45) hotel. The sea isn't cold and (46) are many interesting places to visit. Yesterday we walked (47) a village in the mountains. I took lots (48) photographs. It's (49) pity that you didn't come (50) us.

Love

Peter

Part 8 (Questions 51–55)

In this part we test both reading and writing. You have to read one or two short texts (note, e-mail, advertisement, etc.) and use the information to fill in a form, notice, diary entry or other similar document.

The example below is about school books. You have to read the information from the bookshop and the note from Jenny and decide which book she wants to order. Then you have to complete the order form for her (questions 51–55).

<p>Books you'll need this year:</p> <p>Europe, 1815 – 1875 by T Hudson</p> <p>Geography of India by Grant Robinson</p> <p>Order from:</p> <p>Queen's Bookshop 22 Green Street Barking</p>	<p>£7.99 each</p>	<p>14 Park Road Ilford 11 February</p> <p>Jack,</p> <p>I'll give you £4 for your old school geography book. When you're at the bookshop tomorrow, can you order the history book I need?</p> <p>Thanks. Jenny Doyle</p>
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QUEEN'S BOOKSHOP ORDER FORM	
Customer:	Jenny Doyle
Address:	51 <input type="text"/>
Name of book:	52 <input type="text"/>
Writer:	53 <input type="text"/>
Price:	54 <input type="text"/>
Date of order:	55 <input type="text"/>

Part 9 (Question 56)

For the last part of Paper 1 you have to write a short message (25–35 words). This could be a note or a postcard to a friend. The instructions tell you who you are writing to and what type of message to write. There are also some bullet points which tell you the information you have to include in your message.

In the example below you have to write a note to a friend about your new house. Remember to include the information in the two bullet points in your answer.

Part 9
<p>Question 56</p> <p>You now live in a new house. Write a note to a friend about the house.</p> <p>Say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• where your house is• which room you like best and why. <p>Write 25-35 words. Write the note on your answer sheet.</p>

■ Paper 2 Listening

Time: approx. 30 minutes including 8 minutes' transfer time

In the Listening paper there are five parts and 25 questions. The types of exercise you will have to do are: multiple-choice, gap-filling and matching. The texts you will hear are monologues and dialogues, including interviews, discussions, telephone conversations and messages. You will hear each conversation twice. The Listening paper is worth 25% of the total marks.

Part 1 (Questions 1–5)

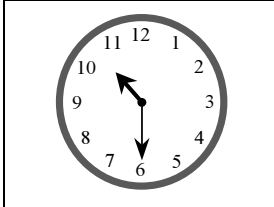
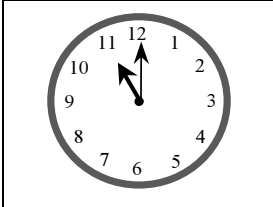
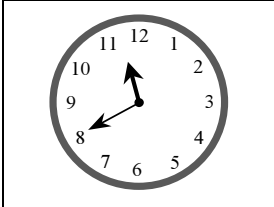
In this part you will hear five separate short conversations. The conversations are either between friends or relatives, or between a member of the public and a shop assistant, booking office clerk, etc. You have to listen for information like prices, numbers, times, dates, locations, directions, shapes, sizes, weather, descriptions of people and current actions. For each question there are three possible answers which are pictures or drawings.

Below you can see two questions from an exam paper. You have to read the question, listen to the recording and choose the right answer (A, B or C). In the exam, there are three more questions like the ones below.

1 Where is the woman going to go on holiday this year?

Canada	Italy	Turkey
A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>

2 What time was the man's appointment?

		
A <input type="checkbox"/>	B <input type="checkbox"/>	C <input type="checkbox"/>

Part 2 (Questions 6–10)

In this part you will hear a longer conversation and you have to identify simple factual information. The conversation is between two people who are talking about things such as daily life, travel, work or free time. You have to listen to the conversation and match the words on two lists to each other. For example, you may have a list of names and a list of food. When you listen to the recording you will hear what food each person likes to eat.

In the example below, Tom is talking to a friend about a sports afternoon. You have to listen to the recording and write down which sport each person did. There is a list of people (6–10) and a list of different sports (A–H). You have to write the correct letter next to each person. You have to choose one sport for each person so you won't need to use all the sports.

People			Sports	
6	Sam	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	basketball
7	Jane	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	football
8	Paul	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	golf
9	Susan	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	horse-riding
10	Anne	<input type="checkbox"/>	E	skiing
			F	table-tennis
			G	tennis
			H	volleyball

Part 3 (Questions 11–15)

In this part of the Listening test you will hear an informal conversation between two people. You have to listen for factual information to answer the questions. There are five questions and each question has three possible answers.

In the example below, Jenny is talking to Mark about buying a computer game. You have to listen to the recording and choose the correct answer (A, B or C) for each question (11–13). In the exam, there are two more questions like the ones below.

11	The game is not good for people under	A	eight.
		B	ten.
		C	twelve.
12	Black's PC shop is in	A	Cambridge.
		B	London.
		C	Peterstown.
13	The address of the shop is	A	29 Hunter Road.
		B	29 Walker Street.
		C	29 Marsden Street.

Part 4 (Questions 16–20)

In this part of the Listening test, you have to listen to a dialogue and write down some information. The dialogue takes place in an informal or neutral context, for example a shop or an office. After you listen to the recording, you have to complete a memo, message or notes on the question paper with the information you have heard. This may be numbers, dates, prices, spellings and words.

In the example below, the recording is of a man asking for information about a train. You have to write down the missing information for questions 16–20. For each question, you have to write one or two words or numbers.

TRAIN	
To:	Newcastle
Day of journey:	16 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Train leaves at:	17 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Return ticket costs:	18 £ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Food on train:	19 Drinks and <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Address of Travel Agency:	20 22 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> Street

Part 5 (Questions 21–25)

Part 5 is similar to Part 4 but it is a monologue. It may be a recorded message.

In the example below, you hear some recorded information about a museum. You have to fill in the missing information for questions 21–25. You have to write one or two words or numbers in each space.

Manor House Museum	
YOU CAN SEE:	
Downstairs:	
Entrance Hall:	old photos
Ford Room:	21 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> pictures of Italian <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Upstairs:	
Left:	22 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> more than 150 <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
Right:	23 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/> from films and TV
Price of guide book:	24 £ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>
Museum closes at:	25 <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>

At the end of the Listening test, you have eight minutes to transfer your answers to the answer sheet.

■ Paper 3 Speaking

Time: 8–10 minutes per pair of candidates

For the Speaking test there are two oral examiners and you take the test in a pair with another candidate. At centres with an uneven number of candidates, the last single candidate is examined with the last pair in a group of three. The Speaking test is worth 25% of the total marks.


Part 1

The first part of the test takes 5 to 6 minutes and you have to show that you can use the English you need when you meet someone for the first time. One of the examiners will talk to you and you will have to give personal information (for example, your name, where you come from, what you do) and talk about your daily life, interests, likes, etc.

Part 2

This part takes 3 to 4 minutes and you have to talk to the other candidate. The examiner will give you a prompt card like the one below and you have to ask and answer questions.

In the example below, Candidate A has some information about the Sandon Air Museum and Candidate B has a card with some question prompts. Candidate B has to use the prompts and ask some questions about the museum. After 4 or 5 questions, the examiner will stop your conversation and give out two new prompt cards with different information. This time Candidate A has to ask questions and Candidate B has to answer.

Candidate A - your answers.	Candidate B - your questions.
<p>SANDON AIR MUSEUM</p>  <p>More than 70 aeroplanes to look at OPEN DAILY 10 am – 6 pm Shop with books and postcards Large free car park</p> <p>Tickets: Adults £8.00 Students £5.00</p>	<p>MUSEUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ what / see?◆ open / weekends?◆ student ticket? £ ?◆ car park?◆ buy / postcard?

Preparing for KET

If you would like more practice material to help you prepare for the KET exam, there are past paper packs available to buy which include an audio CD of the Listening test. You can find more information, prices and details of how to order on our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org/support/pastpapers.htm

Next steps

We wish you every success in taking KET and we hope that you will take other Cambridge ESOL exams in future. The Preliminary English Test (PET) is the next level of the Cambridge exams. You can find more information about PET on our website at:

www.CambridgeESOL.org/exams/pet.htm

What some students have said about KET

I have chosen KET because it is an all in one test, where I can improve all skills, especially my speaking skill, and where I can clearly learn my strengths and weaknesses for improvement.

Dao Pham Quynh Tram, Vietnam

I decided to take the Cambridge English examination because I can improve my English. I can also receive a certificate for this. The course has helped me do well in my English exams in school.

Carmen Chuah, Malaysia

Companies who recognise Cambridge ESOL exams

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Agfa-Gevaert	HSBC
AstraZeneca	IBM
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Barclays Bank	KPMG
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Bayer	Mobil Oil
BP	Nestlé
British Airways	Nokia
Cable & Wireless	PepsiCo
Carrefour	Philips
Citibank	PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Coca-Cola	Procter & Gamble
Colgate-Palmolive	Rank Xerox
Credit Suisse	Roche
DaimlerChrysler	Rolls-Royce
Dell	Shell
Deutsche Bank	Siemens
DHL	Sony
Disney	Sun Microsystems
DuPont	Texaco
Ericsson	Toyota
Estée Lauder	Unilever
General Motors	Vodafone
Gillette	World Bank
GlaxoSmithKline	World Health Organisation (WHO)
Goodyear	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)

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