

The Certificate of Proficiency in English

The following is a brief summary of what the exam consists of.

PAPER 1 READING 1 hour 30 minutes

Part	Text	Question Type	Number of questions
1	3 short texts each with 6 gaps	6 x 4-option multiple-choice questions per text, testing vocabulary, 1 mark per question	18
2	4 short texts with a linked theme	2 x 4-option multiple-choice questions per text, testing comprehension, 2 marks per question	8
3	1 long text with 7 gaps	You choose from 8 paragraphs to fill each gap. The aim is to test text structure and meaning, 2 marks per question	7
4	1 long text	7 x 4-option multiple-choice questions, testing comprehension, 2 marks per question	7

PAPER 2 WRITING 2 hours

Part	Question Types	Number of words
1	Compulsory task, possibly an article, letter, essay or proposal	300 - 350
2	Choice of one of three options (options are an article, letter, proposal, report, review or choice of one from three set book questions)	300 - 350

PAPER 3 USE OF ENGLISH 1 hour 30 minutes

Part	Task	Question Type	Number of questions
1	1 short text with 15 gaps	filling each gap with one word, mostly testing grammar, 1 mark per question	15
2	1 short text with 10 gaps	filling each gap with one word formed from the word given, testing word formation, 1 mark per question	10
3	6 sets of three sentences, each with a gap	filling the gaps with one word that is appropriate in all three sentences, testing vocabulary; 2 marks per question	12
4	8 sentences to be rephrased	rephrasing the given sentence using a word supplied and the beginning and ending supplied, testing vocabulary and grammar, 2 marks per question	16
5	2 short texts, each with two questions Summary writing task	write answers to the two comprehension questions on each text, 2 marks per question, and write a brief summary of both texts	8 14

PAPER 4 LISTENING approximately 40 minutes

Part	Piece	Question Type	Number of questions
1	4 short extracts	2 x 3-option multiple-choice questions per piece, testing comprehension, 1 mark per question	8
2	1 longer piece, usually a monologue	9 sentences to complete with information given in the piece, 1 mark per question	9
3	1 dialogue, often an interview	5 x 4-option multiple-choice questions, testing comprehension, 1 mark per question	5
4	1 discussion involving two speakers	6 x matching views to speaker expressing them (sometimes views are expressed by both speakers), 1 mark per question	6

PAPER 5 SPEAKING 19 minutes (usually two candidates and two examiners)

Part	Activity	Length
1	Conversation between the examiner and each candidate on general and social matters	3 minutes
2	Talking about pictures, followed by conversation between you and the other candidate on a topic arising from one or two of the pictures	4 minutes
3	Each candidate talks for two minutes, based on prompts given to them on a card; the candidates then discuss with each other and the examiner the topics related to the prompt cards for eight minutes	12 minutes

Marks are worked out so that each paper is worth 40 marks. This gives a total of 200 marks, which can be divided by two to give a percentage. To pass, you need to score approximately 60%.