

The **First Certificate in English** is at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference published by the Council of Europe.

FCE overview

Paper/Timing	Content	Test focus
READING 1 hour	<p>Part 1 A text followed by eight multiple-choice questions.</p> <p>Part 2 A text from which seven sentences have been removed and placed in a jumbled order, together with an additional sentence, after the text.</p> <p>Part 3 A text or several short texts preceded by fifteen multiple-matching questions.</p>	Candidates are expected to show understanding of specific information, text organization, features, tone and text structure.
WRITING 1 hour 20 minutes	<p>Part 1 One compulsory question.</p> <p>Part 2 Candidates choose one task from a choice of five questions (including the set text options).</p>	Candidates are expected to be able to write text types such as an article, an essay, a letter, an email, a report, a review, or a short story, with a focus on advising, apologizing, comparing, describing, explaining, expressing opinions, justifying, persuading, recommending, suggesting.
USE OF ENGLISH 45 minutes	<p>Part 1 A modified cloze test containing 12 gaps and followed by 12 multiple-choice items.</p> <p>Part 2 A modified open cloze test containing 12 gaps.</p> <p>Part 3 A text containing 10 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.</p> <p>Part 4 Eight separate questions, each with a lead-in sentence and a gapped second sentence to be completed in two to five words, one of which is a given 'key word'.</p>	Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of the language system by completing a number of tasks.

Part / Timing	Content	Test focus
<p>LISTENING Approximately 40 minutes</p>	<p>Part 1 A series of eight short unrelated extracts from monologues or exchanges between interacting speakers. There is one multiple-choice question for each extract.</p> <p>Part 2 A monologue or text involving interacting speakers with a sentence completion task which has ten questions.</p> <p>Part 3 Five short related monologues, with five multiple-matching questions.</p> <p>Part 4 A monologue or text involving interacting speakers, with seven multiple-choice questions.</p>	<p>Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of the language system by completing a number of tasks.</p>
<p>SPEAKING 15 minutes</p>	<p>Part 1 A conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions).</p> <p>Part 2 An individual 'long turn' for each candidate with a brief response from the second candidate (visual and written stimuli, with spoken instructions).</p> <p>Part 3 A two-way conversation between the candidates (visual and written stimuli, with spoken instructions).</p> <p>Part 4 A discussion on topics related to Part 3 (spoken questions).</p>	<p>Candidates are expected to respond to questions and to interact in conversational English.</p>