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CAMBRIDGE

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH

WITH
ANSWERS

3

EXAMINATION PAPERS FROM THE
CAMBRIDGE LOCAL EXAMINATIONS SYNDICATE

CAMBRIDGE
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Cambridge
First Certificate
in English
3

WITH ANSWERS

*Examination papers from the
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To the student

This book is for candidates preparing for the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) First Certificate in English examination (FCE). The FCE examination is widely recognised in commerce and industry and in individual university faculties and other educational institutions.

This collection contains four complete tests which you can practise on your own or with the help of your English teacher. The tests are based on the revised FCE syllabus introduced in December 1996.

The FCE examination is part of a group of examinations developed by UCLES called the Cambridge Main Suite. The Main Suite consists of five examinations that have similar characteristics but are designed for different levels of English language ability. Within the five levels, FCE is at Cambridge Level 3.

Cambridge Level 5 Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
Cambridge Level 4 Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
Cambridge Level 3 First Certificate in English (FCE)
Cambridge Level 2 Preliminary English Test (PET)
Cambridge Level 1 Key English Test (KET)

The FCE examination consists of five papers:

Paper 1 – a **Reading** paper of 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 – a **Writing** paper of 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3 – a **Use of English** paper of 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 4 – a **Listening** paper of about 40 minutes

Paper 5 – a **Speaking** paper of about 14 minutes

Paper 1 Reading

This paper consists of **four parts**. Each part contains a text and some questions. Part 4 may contain two or more shorter related texts. There are **35 questions** in total, including multiple choice, gapped text and matching questions.

Paper 2 Writing

This paper consists of **two parts**. For both parts you have to write between 120 and 180 words. Part 1 is **compulsory**. It provides texts which are sometimes accompanied by visual material to help you write a letter.

In Part 2, there are four tasks from which you **choose one** to write about. The range of tasks from which questions may be drawn includes an article, a report, a composition, a short story and a letter. The last question is based on the set books. These books remain on the list for about two years and you should contact UCLES or the UCLES local secretary in your area, if you wish to have the up-to-date list of background reading texts. If you decide to do the question on the set books, there will be two options from which you can choose **one** to write about.

Paper 3 Use of English

This paper consists of **five parts** and tests your control of English grammar, vocabulary and spelling. There are **65 questions** in total. The tasks include gapfilling exercises, sentence transformation, word formation and error correction.

Paper 4 Listening

This paper contains **four parts**. Each part contains a recorded text or texts and some questions including multiple choice, note-taking and matching. You hear each text twice. There is a total of **30 questions**.

Paper 5 Speaking

This paper consists of **four parts**. The standard test format is two candidates and two examiners. One examiner takes part in the conversation, the other examiner listens and gives marks. You will be given photographs and other visual material to look at and talk about. Sometimes you will talk with the other candidate, sometimes with the examiner and sometimes with both.

Marks and results

The total of marks in each paper is adjusted to 40 marks, so the five papers total 200 marks. Your overall FCE grade is based on the total score gained in all five papers. It is not necessary to achieve a satisfactory level in all five papers in order to pass the examination. Certificates are given to candidates who pass the examination with grade A, B or C. A is the highest. The minimum successful performance in order to achieve a grade C corresponds to about 60% of the total marks. D and E are failing grades. Your Statement of Results will include a graphical profile of your performance in each paper and show your relative performance in each one.

Further information

For more information about FCE, or any other UCLES examination write to:

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