

## FCE (First Certificate in English)

### Why take FCE?

FCE is an upper-intermediate-level Cambridge ESOL exam, at level B2 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This means that if you pass FCE, your level of English is good enough to be of practical use in many types of jobs. Successful FCE candidates can deal with everyday letters and telephone conversations, and can understand some non-academic training courses and simple textbooks and articles.

### What does FCE involve?

FCE has 5 papers: \* **READING**: 1 hour

→ You will need to be able to understand information in fiction and non-fiction books, journals, newspapers and magazines.

\* **WRITING**: 1 hour 20 minutes

→ You will have to show you can produce two different pieces of writing such as a short story, a letter, an article, a report, a review or an essay.

\* **USE OF ENGLISH**: 45 minutes

→ Your use of English will be tested by tasks which show how well you control your grammar and vocabulary.

\* **LISTENING**: 40 minutes

→ You need to show you can understand the meaning of a range of spoken material, including news programmes, speeches, stories and anecdotes and public announcements.

\* **SPEAKING**: 14 minutes

→ You will take the Speaking test with another candidate or in a group of three, and you will be tested on your ability to take part in different types of interaction: with the examiner, with the other candidates and by yourself.

You can find detailed information about FCE, as well as full FCE sample paper, on the Candidate Support website at: [www.candidates.cambridgeesol.org](http://www.candidates.cambridgeesol.org)

	Content	Time allowed	Marks (% of total)
<b>Paper 1: Reading</b>	3 parts / 30 questions	1 hour	20%
<b>Paper 2: Writing</b>	2 parts - Part 1: one compulsory question - Part 2: one from a choice of 4 questions	1 hour 20 minutes	20%
<b>Paper 3: Use of English</b>	4 parts / 42 questions	45 minutes	20%
<b>Paper 4: Listening</b>	4 parts / 30 questions	40 minutes (approx.)	20%
<b>Paper 5: Speaking</b>	4 parts	14 minutes per pair of candidates	20%

## Preparing for FCE

If you would like more practice material to help you prepare for the FCE 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 the website at: [www.cambridgeesol.org/resources/past-papers.html](http://www.cambridgeesol.org/resources/past-papers.html)

### A world of opportunities / Worldwide recognition

- FCE is a truly international exam, recognized by thousands of industrial, administrative and service-based employers as a qualification in intermediate English.
- It is also accepted by a wide range of educational institutions for study purposes.
- Companies such as American Express, Agfa-Gevaert GmbH, Siemens, Procter & Gamble and others... all recognize the value of FCE in their overseas offices.

### English for your future

- FCE offers a clear pathway to higher qualifications such as the Certificate in Advanced English (CAE) and Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)
- FCE's "Can Do" skills enable you to use English in real situations with confidence. FCE exams use real-life situations and are especially designed to help you communicate more effectively in your own life and to focus your language learning on the skills you will actually need.
- Because FCE exams focus on all four communication skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) plus the Use of English, you increase your confidence in using English in everyday situations.

### Exam Dates

FCE can be taken in March, June and December.

!!! Thérèse d'Avila students will take the March 2010 session !!!

- **Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010** (Reading, Writing, Use of English, Listening)
- **The week before or after the exam** (Speaking)

On passing the exam, you will receive a certificate awarded by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, which is recognized by universities and employers throughout the world.

You will also receive a statement of results, showing how you performed in each of the five papers.

The price of the exam this year is: **121 euros**.

### Get Ready!!!

Two interesting websites to prepare FCE and get ready and confident:

[http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/index\\_2.htm](http://www.flo-joe.co.uk/index_2.htm)

[http://www.mines.inp-nancy.fr/dicm/formation\\_ligne](http://www.mines.inp-nancy.fr/dicm/formation_ligne)

+ New from Cambridge ESOL: a Book + a CD-Rom ⇄ **"TOP TIPS FOR FCE"**

Mr et/ou Mme ..... parents de .....  
classe de Tale ..... certificat avoir pris connaissance du présent document.  
Signature : ..... en