

# Introduction

## Exam Overview

The **Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE)** is an examination offered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES). It is administered twice a year, in June and December. The CPE offers a high level qualification to people wanting to use English for professional or study purposes, including high level academic work. There are five papers in the exam and **each paper receives an equal weighting of 20 per cent of the marks**. In order to pass the examination, candidates usually need **a minimum of about 60 per cent of the total marks**. Candidates who pass are awarded one of three grades: Grade A, Grade B or Grade C. Grades D and E are failing grades.

Paper	Time	Content	Number of questions	Number of marks
<b>Paper 1 Reading</b>	1 hour 30 mins	<b>Part 1:</b> Three unrelated short texts with six multiple choice cloze questions each. <b>Part 2:</b> Four short texts on a theme with two multiple choice questions each. <b>Part 3:</b> One gapped text with seven questions. <b>Part 4:</b> One long text with seven multiple choice comprehension questions.	40	62
<b>Paper 2 Writing</b>	2 hours	<b>Part 1:</b> One compulsory question, contextualised through instructions and short input text(s). <b>Part 2:</b> Candidates answer one question from a choice of four, including the set book option.	2	Band score: see page 8
<b>Paper 3 Use of English</b>	1 hour 30 mins	<b>Part 1:</b> One open cloze text with fifteen questions. <b>Part 2:</b> One short text with ten word formation questions. <b>Part 3:</b> Six sets of three gapped sentences. <b>Part 4:</b> Eight key word transformations. <b>Part 5:</b> Two texts with four questions and a summary writing task.	44	75
<b>Paper 4 Listening</b>	Approx. 40 mins	<b>Part 1:</b> Four short extracts with two three-option multiple choice questions each. <b>Part 2:</b> One monologue with nine sentence completion questions. <b>Part 3:</b> One text with five four-option multiple choice questions. <b>Part 4:</b> One dialogue with six three-way matching questions.	28	28
<b>Paper 5 Speaking</b>	19 mins	<b>Part 1:</b> Interview based on examiner's questions. <b>Part 2:</b> Collaborative task based on visual prompts. <b>Part 3:</b> Individual long turn based on a written prompt followed by further discussion.	(Not applicable)	Mark based on Global Achievement