

MEDIA INFORMATION SHEET

Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)

What is CAE?

CAE is the second highest level Cambridge ESOL exam (Certificate of Proficiency in English is at a higher level) at level C1 of the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages¹.

Who Takes CAE?

CAE is suitable for English language learners who want to prove their English is adequate for most purposes, including social and professional situations, and for studying in higher education. CAE is suitable for language learners who:

Wish to work or study abroad

Develop a career which requires language skills (e.g. business, medicine, engineering).

Are working towards CPE (Certificate of Proficiency in English).

What is CAE's Structure?

- CAE has five papers:
- Reading
- Writing
- English in use
- Listening
- Speaking

When can it be taken?

A number of exam sessions are available throughout the year.

Who recognises CAE?

- Universities & colleges
- Professional bodies
- Ministry and Government organisations

CAE is based on realistic tasks. It shows that learners have a very good knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and can use the language in real contexts, at an advanced level. This makes it highly relevant for employers, proving a learner will be able to communicate in English effectively in the workplace.

CAE has been accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), the statutory regulatory authority for external qualifications in England, and its counterparts in Wales and Northern Ireland, at Level 2 in the National Qualifications Framework, under the title 'Cambridge ESOL Level 2 Certificate in English (ESOL)'.

CAE Updates

A number of changes to FCE will be introduced in December 2008.

The overall length will be reduced by approximately one hour

The tests will focus on a wider range of skills and functions

Some components of the exams will include new and/or improved task types

Some components will be more standardised in content, making them user-friendly for students preparing for the exams

ⁱ The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) provides a practical tool for setting clear standards to be attained at successive stages of learning and for evaluating outcomes in an internationally comparable manner and facilitates mutual recognition of language qualifications.