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A 2

KEY

for schools

H. Q. Mitchell - Marileni Malkogianni

Training and 5 Practice Tests




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A2 KEY for schools

Mitchell - Marileni Malkogianni

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Test format - a brief overview

Cambridge English: A2 Key is comprised of three papers: Reading & Writing, Listening, and Speaking.

| Paper | Duration | Overview |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Reading & Writing | 60 mins | Reading: 5 parts (30 questions in total) Writing: 2 parts (2 questions in total) |
| Listening | 30 mins | 5 parts (25 questions in total) |
| Speaking | 8-10 mins | 2 parts (led by an examiner) |

Test description

PAPER 1: READING & WRITING

| Part | Content | Format | Focus |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Reading | | | |
| Part 1 questions 1-6 | Six short texts (emails, notices, messages, etc.) referring to a range of everyday topics. | Three-option multiple-choice questions (one per text). | Questions test candidates' overall understanding of short texts. |
| Part 2 questions 7-13 | Three related short texts. | Multiple matching exercise in which candidates must match three descriptions to seven questions. | Questions assess candidates' ability to locate specific information and understand details. |
| Part 3 questions 14-18 | A longer text that expresses attitudes, feelings or personal opinions. | Three-option multiple-choice questions. | Questions test candidates' ability to understand main ideas and specific details. |
| Part 4 questions 19-24 | A short factual text. | Three-option multiple-choice cloze. | Questions test candidates' knowledge of vocabulary (and occasionally grammar too). |
| Part 5 questions 25-30 | A short email (and sometimes its response as well). | Open cloze. | Questions test candidates' knowledge of grammar and structural patterns at phrase, sentence or paragraph level. |

| Part | Content | Format | Focus |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Writing | | | |
| Part 6 question 31 | A short rubric or email detailing a situation and three prompts to help provide a response. | Candidates are asked to produce a short, written communication of 25 or more words, covering the points provided. | This question tests candidates' ability to communicate through an authentic, short written message. |
| Part 7 question 32 | Three picture prompts. | Candidates are asked to produce a story of 35 or more words based on the picture prompts. | This question tests candidates' ability to write short narratives. |

PAPER 2: LISTENING*

| Part | Content | Format | Focus |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Part 1 questions 1-5 | Five short, neutral or informal dialogues taken from everyday situations. | Three-option multiple-choice questions based on pictures (one per dialogue). | Questions test candidates' ability to locate key information. |
| Part 2 questions 6-10 | An informal or neutral monologue. | A gapped summary in note-form for completion. | Questions require candidates to listen for specific and detailed information. |
| Part 3 questions 11-15 | A longer, informal or neutral dialogue. | Three-option multiple-choice questions. | Questions test candidates' understanding of detailed information. |
| Part 4 questions 16-20 | Five short, neutral or informal monologues or dialogues taken from everyday situations. | Three-option multiple-choice questions (one per monologue/ dialogue). | Questions test candidates' ability to locate the main idea, the gist or the topic. |
| Part 5 questions 21-25 | A longer, informal dialogue. | Multiple matching exercise that involves matching five items to eight options. | Questions test candidates' understanding of detailed information. |

* In the exam, each recording is heard twice.

PAPER 3: SPEAKING

| Part | Content | Format | Focus |
|---------------------------|--|---|--|
| Part 1 3-4 mins | Standardised personal questions on everyday topics. | Interaction between an examiner and a candidate. | This part tests candidates' ability to answer simple, factual questions about themselves. |
| Part 2 5-6 mins | A conversation based on visual prompts, followed by extension questions on the same topic. | Interaction between candidates, and also between the examiner and the candidates. | This part tests candidates' ability to carry on a conversation, compare, describe and express opinion. |

Scoring *Cambridge English: A2 Key*

In the test, each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) is worth 25% of the final mark.

READING & WRITING

questions 1-30
questions 31-32

are worth 1 mark each
are worth 15 marks each

Total: 60 marks (adjusted to 50%)

LISTENING

questions 1-25

are worth 1 mark each

Total: 25 marks

SPEAKING

candidates are assessed out of 25 for the whole paper

Total: 25 marks

Detailed instructions on how to score *Cambridge English: A2 Key* can be found at <http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/>

Training Section

READING & WRITING

PART 1

Reading and Writing Part 1 tests how well you understand short texts.

Exam description

You will read **6** short texts, such as notices, signs, emails or text messages. Next to each text, you will find **3** sentences, sometimes including a question (e.g. *Who is this message for?* or *What is this message asking students to do?*). You will then have to read these sentences and choose the one that has the same meaning as the information in the text.

For each question 1-6, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

1.

We love pets, but please don't bring them inside. Other customers might not feel comfortable. We can give you pet water while you enjoy your meal.

Where would you find this?
A. at a park
B. at a restaurant
C. at a shop

4.

Dad, my flight's delayed, so I'll get to London at about 2.30 p.m., not 11.00. Meet you outside the airport, Alex

A. The flight will arrive in London before midday.
B. Alex won't see his dad until the afternoon.
C. Alex has decided to stay longer in London.

2.

From: Steve
 To: Patty
 Are you walking to the park? My foot still hurts so maybe I shouldn't. If you want, meet me at the bus stop at 5 p.m.

A. Steve is telling Patty how he will get to the park.
B. Steve is explaining why they should go somewhere else.
C. Steve is suggesting going to the park on foot.

5.

THE GOLD RING TODAY ONLY
 All silver bracelets **20% off!**

A. You will pay less for all jewellery today.
B. Silver bracelets will have a different price tomorrow.
C. All bracelets have the same discount today.

3.

ALL SEASONS SWIMMING POOL
 Anyone younger than 12 must swim with an adult.

A. Teenagers can't swim without an adult.
B. To swim alone, you must be an adult.
C. Over-12s can go swimming by themselves.

6.

All visitors and staff must put on a white coat before entering the factory area. Please collect from the receptionist.

A. Anyone going into the factory has to get dressed in special clothes first.
B. If you're a member of staff, you don't need to wear a white coat.
C. You cannot enter without letting the receptionist know.

Where would you find this text?

1a. Read the texts. What kind of texts are they? Write 1-5.

notice: sign: advert:



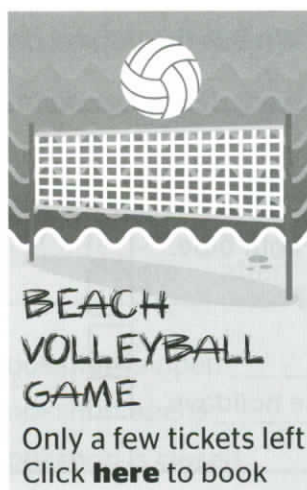
tip

You can get a lot of information by looking at each text carefully. *Is it a notice, a sign, an email, etc.? Where would you find it?*

3.



4.



5.



1b. Where would you find the texts in activity 1a? Match them with the options A-H. There are **three extra** options which you do not need to use. Which words helped you decide? Underline them.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | A. sports centre |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | B. website |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | C. lake |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> | D. school cafeteria |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> | E. hospital |
| | F. art room |
| | G. pharmacy |
| | H. beach |

Why is this person writing?

2. Read the text message and answer the questions.



- Who wrote the message?

- Who is the message for?

- Who is going camping?

- Who might have a tent?

- What should Lisa do?
Choose **A, B** or **C**.
A. give Meg her camping equipment back
B. let Meg know about something
C. join Meg on her trip

tip

If the text is an email or a text message, ask yourself:
Who wrote it?
Why did they write it?
Who is it for?