

Exam Preparation Courses: CPE

Certificate of Proficiency in English

CPE is Cambridge ESOL's most advanced exam. CPE is at Level C2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)*. It is aimed at people who use English for professional or study purposes.

Is CPE for you?

Can you...

- use English to advise on, or talk about complex or sensitive issues?
- understand the finer points of documents, correspondence and reports?

If this describes your skills now, or describes the level of skills you are working towards, then CPE is the right exam for you.

What will CPE do for you?

Cambridge ESOL is a department of the world-famous and historic University of Cambridge. Attaining one of its certificates is an achievement and a reward in itself. However, there are many other benefits to taking CPE:

- A CPE certificate is valid for life, you never need to take the exam again.
- CPE is truly international, recognised around the world for business and study purposes.
- Hundreds of employers, universities and government departments officially recognise CPE as proof of proficiency in English.

What is involved in taking the CPE exam?

CPE has five papers:

Reading: 1 hour 30 minutes

You will need to be able to understand the meaning of written English at word, sentence, paragraph and whole text level.

Writing: 2 hours

You will have to show you can produce a number of different items such as a short story, a letter, an article, a report or a composition, each of about 300—350 words.

Use of English: 1 hour 30 minutes

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

Listening: 45 minutes

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

Speaking: 19 minutes

You will take the Speaking test with another candidate or in groups 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.



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