

Reading and Use of English

You only have 90 minutes to complete this part of the exam, so time management is crucial. I would recommend spending no more than 28 minutes to finish parts 1-4, and 60 minutes to complete parts 5-8.

The extra two minutes are for transferring answers from the exam booklet to the answer sheet. Transfer your answers as you progress through the exam, for example after you complete each part. Do not leave it until the end to transfer your answers.

Part 1

Even though this is testing your knowledge of vocabulary, there may be grammatical clues (e.g. dependent prepositions after the gap) that help you get the correct answer. Read the whole text quickly as this will give you an idea of what the writer really wants to say about the topic. This context will make it a bit easier to choose the answers.

If you aren't sure about an answer, make a guess and move on. Don't waste time thinking about question (0) because it is just an example!

To do well here you should brush up on phrasal verbs, collocations

Part 2

This is focusing on the grammatical side of English. So many grammatical points may come up in this part of the exam, but here is a list of possible types of answers:

- Pronouns
 - Subject/Object
 - Reflexive
 - Relative
- Prepositions
- Articles/Determiners
 - Much/many etc
- Modal/Auxiliary Verbs
 - To be (passive tense)
 - To have (perfect tenses)
 - Will, would (and "if" / "unless") for conditionals
 - (Inverted conditionals may also appear)
- Conjunctions
 - Whereas / although,
 - However
 - Despite, spite (in the phrase in spite of)
 - Also, but, so, while, such as...

Write only one word. Contractions like 'don't' are two words (do not), so they can never be the answer. Sometimes there can be more than one correct answer (e.g. since/as/because), write any but only one, not all three.

Again, it's a good idea to quickly read the whole text first. This context will help to determine if words should be positive or negative.

Part 3

You must read the whole text and gain understanding of global context. That's because you have to change some of the words into negative forms- context is the only way to determine which one(s).

Word formation tips:

Sentence formation is a bit like grammar. Look at what types of words you have around the gap to work out which type of word goes into the gap.

Adjective + noun

Adverb + adjective

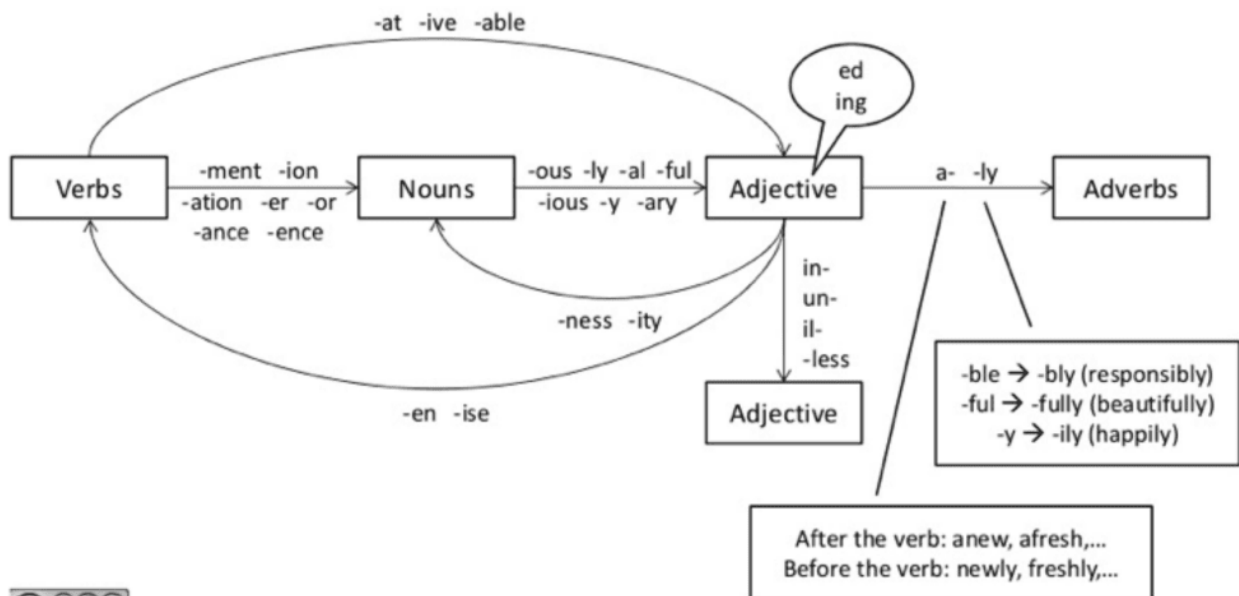
Adverb + verb

Verb + adverb

Adverb + comma (e.g. "Surprisingly, nobody was hurt in the accident" **SURPRISE**)

Then use context to determine if the word in the gap needs to be positive or negative, singular or plural (check for articles before the gap), abstract noun or personal noun etc.

Spelling is crucial. If even one letter is wrong, no points!



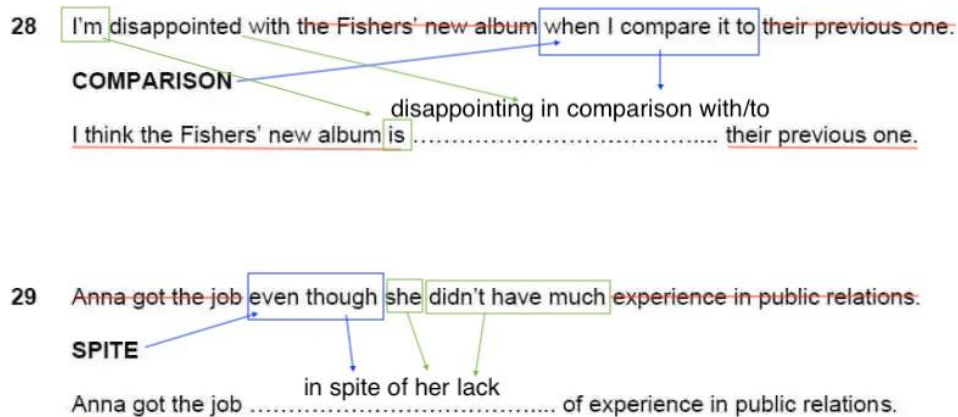
Part 4

- Keep the same meaning! If they use the adjective “disappointing” don’t change it to “bad”; they are similar but not identical.
- Contractions count as two words.
- Don't change the word they give you. For example, if the word is 'TO' you can't use 'INTO'.
- Each question is worth 2 points. You might not know the whole answer but sometimes one correct word will give you a point.
- Check your tenses - if the first sentence is in the past tense, the second should be too.
- Make sure spelling is perfect, if one letter is wrong, you will lose points.

Eliminate information which has already been replicated

Consider how the word they give you connects with information in the sentence and try to think of any phrases you know with this word

The remaining information in the original will also need to change in some way. E.g. the adjective “disappointed” (to describe feelings) has to change to “disappointing” in order to describe what provoked that feeling.



Give yourself a bit longer to do this part of the exam.

If you can complete part 1 in five minutes, part 2 in 5 minutes and part 3 in six minutes, you can dedicate 12 minutes to part 4. Two minutes per sentence isn't much, but every little helps!

Part 5

This is a long text with six comprehension questions.

- Each correct answer is worth 2 points.
- The answers are in the same order as the questions.
- The only exception might be the 6th question which sometimes asks you a general question about the whole text.
- You may not understand each and every word, but try to deduce meaning from context.

Part 6

In part 6 you will read four short texts from different writers. There are four questions, each worth two points. You have to understand each writer's opinion on various topics and compare them with the opinions of the others.

Follow this link for advice on how to answer this part of the exam:

- <https://academiafreewaylanguages.es/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CAE-reading-part-6.pdf>

Part 7

Read the whole text and all the paragraphs. Then pay special attention to the sentences before and after the gap. The majority of the most important information is there.

Be careful because sometimes there won't be a clue in the sentence immediately before or after the gap. You really do need to read the whole text to get its meaning - sometimes the 'clue' is the entire paragraph.

You don't have to start with the first gap. Always start with the one you think is easiest and leave the hardest ones to the end.

Follow this link for advice on how to answer this part of the exam:

- <https://academiafreewaylanguages.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CAE-part-7.pdf>

Part 8

Part 8 gives you 4-6 short texts and 10 questions. You have to match the ten questions with the short texts.

Typically, students complete this part of the test a bit quicker, so as a result you may be able to dedicate a bit more time to another part of the exam which you find more difficult.

Speaking

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
<p>You are asked basic questions about you and your life.</p> <p>Learn key words, don't memorise speeches.</p> <p>You shouldn't talk to your partner.</p> <p>When the other candidate is talking, don't interrupt him.</p> <p>Answer the question they ask. One word answers= BAD!</p> <p>But at the same time, you shouldn't elaborate excessively.</p> <p>E.g. Where are you from?</p> <p>1) Valencia. 😞</p> <p>2) I'm Valencian born and bred, but I usually spend the weekends in Denia where I also have a house. 😊</p> <p>3) I'm from Valencia, a city in Spain on the Mediterranean Coast. It's really nice here because the weather is... blah blah blah 😞</p>	<p>You have to talk about two pictures on your own for a minute.</p> <p>Then the examiner will ask the other candidate a question about your pictures.</p> <p>Next, the other candidate will have to talk for a minute about some different pictures, and you will be asked a question about those pictures.</p> <p>How to do well:</p> <p>A B C S</p> <p>Always Be Comparing and Speculating!!</p> <p>You only have a minute to answer two questions about two photos. That's 15 seconds each question...not long!</p> <p>Answer: Q1 - P1, Q1 - P2 Q2 - P2, Q2 - P1 https://academiafreewaylanguages.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CAE-language-upgrade.pdf</p>	<p>In the 'collaborative task' you have to work as a team and speak to your partner.</p> <p>You discuss the first question (which they present as part of a spider map) for two minutes, and then there's another question you talk about for one minute.</p> <p>For the shorter question, they ask you to agree on one. You don't lose points if you don't agree on one, so it is better to simply disagree and debate.</p> <p>Don't dominate, always involve your partner. If your partner dominates, interrupt!</p> <p>"I think, what do you think, I agree, I disagree..." 😞</p> <p>Show the examiner what you know and avoid these simple and common words!</p>	<p>Part 4 takes the topic from part 3 and extends it.</p> <p>You can answer questions in a more natural way, like you would in everyday conversation.</p> <p>However the questions can be quite challenging so you may need to "buy" time with phrases such as these:</p> <p>"Well, now, let me see..."</p> <p>"Oh, what a great question!"</p> <p>"I've never really thought about that..."</p> <p>Remember to PEE!</p> <p>P- introduce your Point</p> <p>E- Explain your point using Examples</p> <p>E- mention another Example to strengthen your argument or offer contrast.</p> <p>(A balanced argument is a strong argument!)</p>

Writing

For information about the writing exam, please see the link below:

<https://academiafreewaylanguages.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CAE-Writing-Guide.pdf>

Some general tips:

- 90 minutes, 45 minutes for each task (each parts give equals points)
- Plan! Plan! Plan!
 - 5-10 minutes to plan
 - 30-35 minutes to write
 - 5 minutes to check

You are marked on the following:

- Content
 - Did you answer the question fully? Is the reader fully informed?
- Organisation
 - Is the structure correct and are your ideas linked together clearly? Does the writing have a logical flow?
- Language
 - Have you used a variety of grammar and vocabulary and is it used accurately?
- Communicative achievement
 - Did you use the right tone and level of formality?

Listening

Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Part 4
<p>Part 1 is a multiple choice section.</p> <p>You hear people talking to each other and you have two questions about what you hear.</p> <p>There are three short recordings, which means a total of 6 questions to answer.</p> <p>You hear the repetition immediately so if you don't get the answer after that repetition, make a guess and start reading the next questions.</p>	<p>Part 2 is 'sentence completion'. Someone talks about a topic for about 3 minutes. You have to fill in the gaps of 8 sentences.</p> <p>You should use your preparation time to predict answers.</p> <p>Be sure to read the whole sentence and make sure your answer fits grammatically!</p> <p>Check your spelling!!</p> <p>Be wary of distractors: they will give two / three possible answers, but only one is correct.</p> <p>Don't write the first thing you hear!</p>	<p>Part 3 is an interview.</p> <p>You hear the answers in the order of the questions.</p> <p>As soon as part 2 is over, turn to part 3 and start reading the questions. This is the section with the most text so the more time you can spend reading, the better.</p> <p>Start by reading the question stems and if you have time, go back and start reading the choices. Underline key words.</p> <p>Cambridge uses distractors in this section. Be very suspicious of 'exact match' phrases. If option C uses the word 'plenty' and one of the speakers uses the word 'plenty', it's probably not the answer.</p> <p>Eliminate answers that are clearly wrong. Often it's possible to eliminate 3 of the 4 choices, so you can get the answer even if you don't know the meaning of a certain word.</p>	<p>This is the most tricky part.</p> <p>Complete both tasks simultaneously!</p> <p>Remember that you may hear the answer to task two before you hear the answer to task one.</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p> <p>→</p>

After part 4 is repeated, you get five minutes to copy your answers from the question paper to the answer sheet. If you have any blank spaces at this point, just guess. You never lose points for incorrect answers.