



Extended certification - recognising candidates' true achievement

From March this year, Cambridge ESOL is making further important enhancements in the way we present candidates' results for many of our exams. 'Extended certification' will give many candidates additional credit for the language skills they have demonstrated and for what they can do with their language, and a clearer picture of how results relate to the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). This will help universities, employers, government bodies and other organisations to make informed decisions and increase opportunities for candidates.

Extended certification applies to:

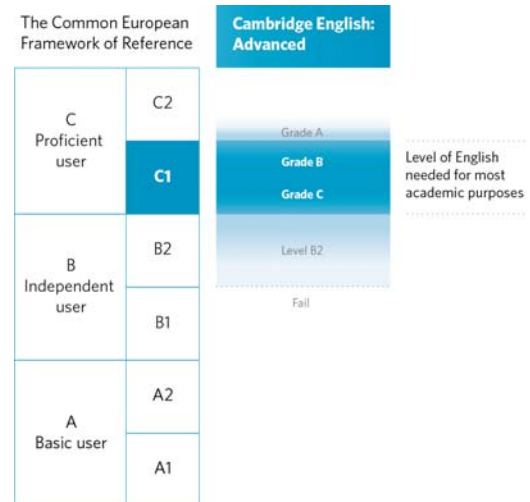
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
- Cambridge English: First (FCE)
- Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) and Preliminary for Schools
- Cambridge English: Key (KET) and Key for Schools
- Business English Certificates: Preliminary, Vantage and Higher (BEC)

Cambridge English exams have always included items which cover a range of difficulty. Although each of these exams is targeted at a particular level on the CEFR, they also cover the levels immediately above and below, and extended certification allows candidates to receive credit for their performance at these levels. It is an enhancement to the way we report results, and does not change the content of the exams or the skills candidates need to demonstrate to achieve a particular grade.

Extended certification is designed to give a clearer picture of how candidates' performance in each Cambridge ESOL exam aligns to the CEFR. It works in two ways:

- A candidate who performs particularly well in the exams can get credit at a higher level on the CEFR. For example, candidates who get grade A in Cambridge English: Advanced receive a 'CAE' certificate indicating that they are at C2 level.
- Candidates can also receive credit for their English language skills, even if they do not achieve a passing grade. So a candidate who does not get enough marks for a grade C in Cambridge English: Advanced can still be awarded a certificate showing performance at level B2 if they show this level of ability in the exam.

These examples are illustrated in the diagram.



Extended certification will be rolled out for all the exams listed above during 2011, with most of the new certification arrangements in place for exams in March 2011.

February 2011

Exam	Results available	CEFR level
Cambridge English: Proficiency	CPE grades A, B and C C1 pass	C2 C1
Cambridge English: Advanced	CAE grade A CAE grades B and C B2 pass	C2 C1 B2
Cambridge English: First and First for Schools	FCE grade A FCE grades B and C B1 pass	C1 B2 B1
Cambridge English: Preliminary and Preliminary for Schools	PET Pass with Distinction (from September 2011) PET Pass with Merit PET Pass A2 pass	B2 B1 B1 A2
Cambridge English: Key and Key for Schools	KET Pass with Distinction (from September 2011) KET Pass with Merit KET Pass A1 pass	B1 A2 A2 A1
BEC Higher	BEC Higher grade A BEC Higher grades B and C B2 pass	C2 C1 B2
BEC Vantage	BEC Vantage grade A BEC Vantage grades B and C B1 pass	C1 B2 B1
BEC Preliminary	BEC Preliminary Pass with Distinction (from September 2011) BEC Preliminary Pass with Merit BEC Preliminary Pass A2 pass	B2 B1 B1 A2

Cambridge English

A range of exams to meet different needs

