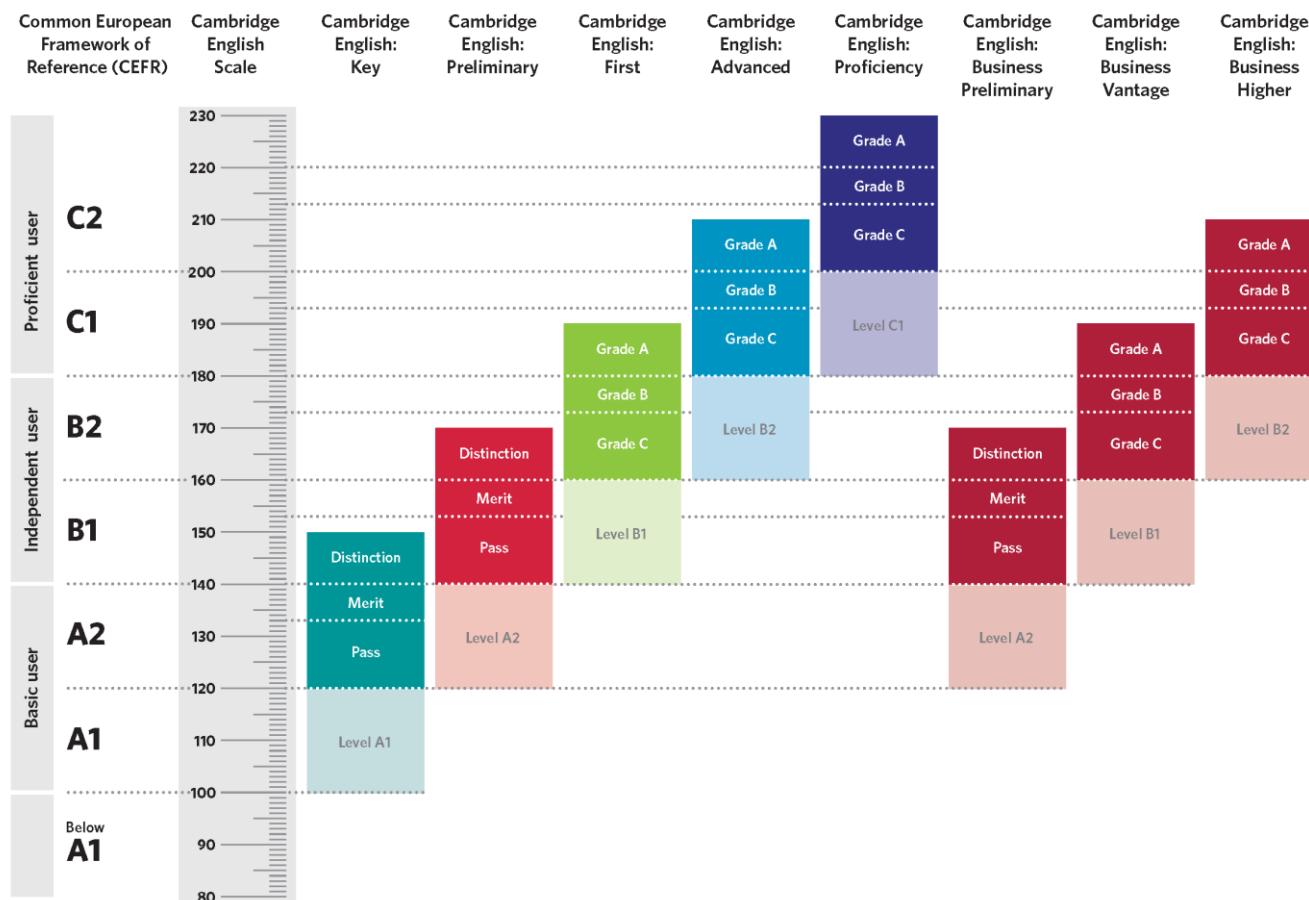


## The Cambridge English Scale



The Cambridge English Scale is a range of scores used to report results for Cambridge English exams. The scores replace the candidate profile and standardised scores. Grades and Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels are retained. Scale scores make clear the alignment of our exams with each other, and with the CEFR.

*Cambridge English: First, First for Schools, Advanced and Proficiency* have reported on the scale since January 2015. *Cambridge English: Key, Key for Schools, Preliminary, Preliminary for Schools and Business Certificates* will be added to the scale in February 2016.

### Candidate results

Candidates continue to receive a Statement of Results and a certificate. Both contain the candidate's:

- score on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and Use of English where tested\*

- score on the Cambridge English Scale for the overall exam
- grade for the overall exam
- CEFR level for the overall exam.

In addition, the certificate contains the UK National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level.

### Determining the Cambridge English Scale scores

In all exams, other than *Cambridge English: Key and Key for Schools\**, candidates receive a Cambridge English Scale score for each skill – Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. Where tested, candidates also get a separate score for Use of English.

\*For *Cambridge English: Key* and *Key for Schools*, candidates receive three scores, one for each paper (Reading & Writing, Listening and Speaking).

The overall score is calculated by averaging the individual scores a candidate receives. In *Cambridge English: Key*, the score for the Reading & Writing paper is doubled to account for the double weighting of this paper.

The grades and CEFR levels are defined at specific points on the Cambridge English Scale. For example, a Cambridge English Scale score of 195 in *Cambridge English: Advanced* represents a grade B, and also indicates that the candidate is at Level C1.

## Relating scores between exams

The Cambridge English Scale represents performance across a wider range of language ability than any single exam. Each exam is mapped to a section of the scale.

Although Cambridge English exams are targeted at a specific level (*Cambridge English: First* at Level B2, for example) there is a degree of overlap between exams at adjacent levels. The new Cambridge English Scale shows where the exams overlap and how performance on one exam relates to performance on another.

The diagram overleaf shows that a candidate who scores 182 in *Cambridge English: First* will be expected to achieve a similar score in *Cambridge English: Advanced*.

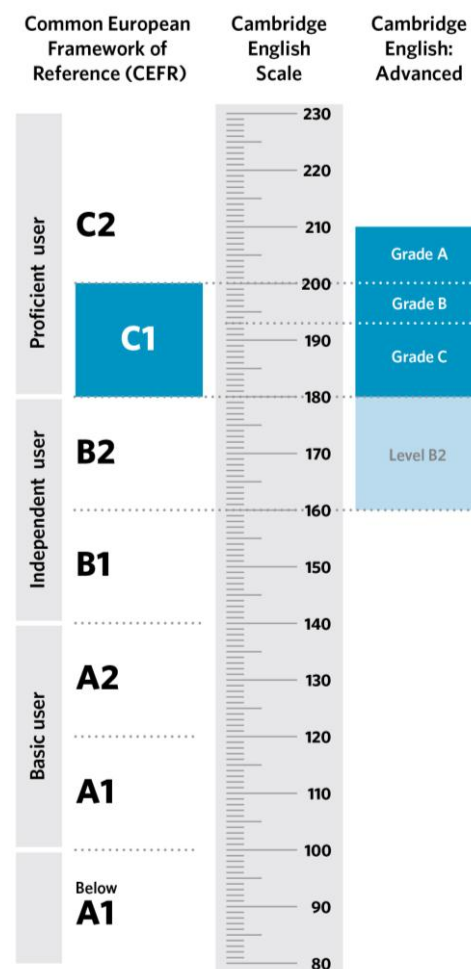
The scores reported for each exam range from:

- 82 to 150 for *Cambridge English: Key*
- 102 to 170 for *Cambridge English: Preliminary*
- 122 to 190 for *Cambridge English: First*
- 142 to 210 for *Cambridge English: Advanced*
- 162 to 230 for *Cambridge English: Proficiency*
- 102 to 170 for *Cambridge English: Business Preliminary*
- 122 to 190 for *Cambridge English: Business Vantage*
- 142 to 210 for *Cambridge English: Business Higher*.

Our extensive research over many years means that we can be confident that candidates who achieve the same Cambridge English Scale score in different exams show a comparable level of ability. The alignment of our exams is an integral part of our test construction procedures as well as the rating scales we use to assess performance.

## An example of how the scale works

The example below shows the relationship between the CEFR levels, the Cambridge English Scale and the grades awarded in *Cambridge English: Advanced*.



A candidate scoring 200 to 210 will receive a grade A and a *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate stating that they demonstrated ability at Level C2. The maximum achievable score for *Cambridge English: Advanced* is 210.

Candidates with scores from 193 to 199 will receive a grade B. Those scoring between 180 and 192 will receive a grade C. These candidates will receive a *Cambridge English: Advanced* certificate at Level C1.

Candidates who score between 160 and 179 will receive a Cambridge English certificate stating they demonstrated ability at Level B2.

Candidates scoring between 142 and 159 will not receive a certificate, but will be given a Cambridge English Scale score which will be shown on the Statement of Results.