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Exam information

The Cambridge First Certificate Examination in English is made up of five papers, each testing a different area of ability in English. Each paper is worth 20% of the total mark. There are five grades. A, B and C are pass grades; D and E are fail grades.

Paper 1 Reading (1 hour)

The Reading paper has three parts. Each part tests a different reading skill or skills. There are 30 questions altogether. You write your answers on an answer sheet during the exam.

Part 1 Multiple-choice questions

Focus: Detail, opinion, gist, attitude, deducing meaning, text organisation features (exemplification, comparison, reference), tone, purpose and main idea

Task: There are eight four-option multiple-choice questions. You have to choose the correct option (A, B, C or D) based on the information in the text.

► **Exam focus** p.44

Part 2 Gapped text

Focus: Understanding text structure, cohesion and coherence

Task: You read a text from which seven sentences have been removed and placed in jumbled order after the text. You have to decide where they fit in the text. There is one extra sentence that you do not need to use.

► **Exam focus** p.148

Part 3 Multiple matching

Focus: Specific information, detail, opinion and attitude

Task: You read 15 questions or statements about a text which has been divided into sections, or several short texts. You have to decide which section or text contains the information relating to each question or statement.

► **Exam focus** p.24

Paper 2 Writing (1 hour 20 minutes)

The Writing paper is divided into two parts, and you have to complete one task from each part. Each answer carries equal marks, so you should not spend longer on one than another.

Part 1 is compulsory, and there is no choice of questions. You have to write a letter or email based on given information and prompts. It may be informal or semi-formal, and you have to write 120–150 words.

► Unit 1 p.16, Unit 2 p.28

Part 2 has four tasks to choose from. The first three options may include any three of the following:

- a letter or email ► Unit 11 p.140
- an article ► Unit 4 p.52
- a report ► Unit 6 p.78
- an essay ► Unit 7 p.90
- a story ► Unit 3 p.40
- a review ► Unit 5 p.64

The fourth option has a choice of two tasks based on one of five background reading texts. The task could be any one of the following: a letter, an article, a report, an essay or a review.

The background reading texts change regularly, so you should check the current regulations to find out what the texts are. For Part 2, you have to write 120–180 words. ► **Writing reference** p.206

Paper 3 Use of English (45 minutes)

There are four parts in the Use of English paper, with 42 questions altogether. You write your answers on an answer sheet during the exam. There is always an example at the beginning of each task to help you.

Part 1 Multiple-choice cloze

Focus: Vocabulary

Task: You read a text with 12 gaps. You choose the best word to fit each gap from a choice of four options (A, B, C or D). ► **Exam focus** p.36

Part 2 Open cloze

Focus: Grammar and vocabulary

Task: You read a text with 12 gaps. You have to think of the most appropriate word to fill each gap. You must use one word only. No options are provided.

► **Exam focus** p.83

Part 3 Word formation

Focus: Vocabulary

Task: You read a text with ten gaps. You are given the stems of the missing words in capitals at the end of the lines. You have to change the form of each word to fit the context. ► **Exam focus** p.110

Part 4 Key word transformations*Focus:* Grammar and vocabulary*Task:* There are eight items. You are given a sentence and a 'key word'. You have to complete a second, gapped sentence using the key word. The second sentence has a different grammatical structure but must have a similar meaning to the original.► **Exam focus** p.61**Paper 4 Listening** (approximately 40 minutes)

There are four parts in the Listening paper, with a total of 30 questions. You write your answers on the question paper and then you have five minutes at the end of the exam to transfer them to an answer sheet. In each part you will hear the text(s) twice. The texts may be monologues or exchanges between interacting speakers. There will be a variety of accents.

Part 1 Extracts with multiple-choice questions*Focus:* Each extract will have a different focus, which could be: main point, detail, purpose or location of speech, relationship between the speakers, attitude or opinion of the speakers*Task:* You hear eight short, unrelated extracts of about 30 seconds each. They may be monologues or conversations. You have to answer one three-option multiple-choice question (A, B or C) for each extract.► **Exam focus** p.88**Part 2 Sentence completion***Focus:* Specific information, detail, stated opinion*Task:* You hear a monologue or conversation lasting about three minutes. You complete ten sentences with words from the text. ► **Exam focus** p.98**Part 3 Multiple matching***Focus:* As for Part 1*Task:* You hear a series of five monologues or exchanges, lasting about 30 seconds each. The speaker/s in each extract are different, but the situations or topics are all related to each other. You have to match each speaker to one of six statements or questions (A–F). There is one extra option that you do not need to use.► **Exam focus** p.131**Part 4 Multiple-choice questions***Focus:* Specific information, opinion, attitude, gist, main idea*Task:* You hear a monologue or conversation which lasts about three minutes. There are seven questions. You have to choose the correct option (A, B or C).► **Exam focus** p.109**Paper 5 Speaking**

(approximately 14 minutes)

You take the Speaking test with a partner. There are two examiners. One is the 'interlocutor', who speaks to you, and the other is the 'assessor', who just listens. There are four different parts in the test.

Part 1 Interview (3 minutes)*Focus:* General interactional and social language*Task:* The interlocutor asks each of you questions about yourself, such as where you come from, what you do in your free time. ► **Exam focus** p.15**Part 2 Individual long turn** (4 minutes)*Focus:* Organising your ideas, comparing, describing, expressing opinions*Task:* The interlocutor gives you a pair of photographs to compare, and to give a personal reaction to. You speak by yourself for about a minute while your partner listens. Then the interlocutor asks your partner a question about what you have said. Only a short answer is expected. You then change roles. ► **Exam focus** p.77**Part 3 Collaborative task** (3 minutes)*Focus:* Interacting with your partner, exchanging ideas, expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and/or disagreeing, suggesting, speculating, evaluating, reaching a decision through negotiation*Task:* You are given a task to discuss together, based on a set of pictures. You should try to reach a conclusion together, but there is no right or wrong answer to the task, and you don't have to agree with each other. It is the interaction between you that is important.► **Exam focus** p.125**Part 4 Discussion** (4 minutes)*Focus:* Expressing and justifying opinions, agreeing and disagreeing*Task:* The interlocutor asks you both general questions related to the topic of Part 3, and gives you the chance to give your opinions on other aspects of the same topic.► **Exam focus** p.125

UNIT

1

What's on?

Speaking 1

1 Look at the film stills and discuss the questions.

- 1 Can you name the films?
- 2 What kind of films are they? Choose from the words in the box.
- 3 What type of film do you like best? Why?

action animation/cartoon comedy horror
musical romance science fiction/fantasy
Western thriller

2 Think of the film you have seen most recently.

- 1 What was it called?
- 2 Who was in it?
- 3 Where was it set?
- 4 What was it about?
- 5 How many stars would you give it?
 ***** outstanding
 ***** good
 ***** all right
 ***** not very good
 ***** terrible
- 6 Why did you give the film this rating? Explain, using words and expressions from the boxes.

The plot was ... exciting realistic terrible
 The setting was ... frightening unusual
 The acting was ... boring sad funny
 excellent average

Example:

I gave it three stars – I thought it was all right. The plot was quite exciting, but the setting wasn't very realistic, and the acting was only average.

3 Imagine you are a film producer. Answer these questions and give your reasons.

- 1 What kind of film would you like to make?
- 2 Where will it be set?
- 3 Who will you choose to star in it?





Listening 1: sentence completion (Part 2)

1 You will hear a radio interview about a survey of popular films. First, read through the sentences below. What were the main areas covered by the survey? Can you suggest what any of the missing words might be?

Film survey

An Internet questionnaire was completed by
(1) people.

By far the most popular type of film was
(2)

There were two popular themes:
(3) and good versus evil.

As regards location, people liked
(4) places such as jungles.

The most popular setting in terms of time was the
(5)

The male stars chosen, like Robert de Niro, were
more (6) than the female stars.

Popular female stars had (7) as
well as glamour.

Titles of the most popular films often consisted of
(8)

The film titles often included the name of a place
or a (9)

Listeners now have to vote for the best films of
the (10)

2

1 Now listen and complete the sentences. Write a word or short phrase for each answer.

TIP! Complete the gaps with the exact words used in the recording – don't try to use your own words.

2 Listen again to check and complete your answers.

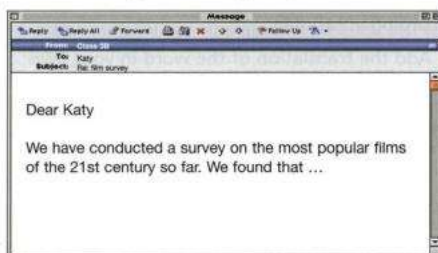
3

1 Carry out a similar survey to find out what your class thinks are the best films of the 21st century so far. Work in groups. Ask and answer questions about:

- types of films (with examples)
- best plots (with examples)
- most popular settings (place and time)
- most popular actors (male and female)
- most popular titles.

2 Find out the results of the other groups.

3 Write an email that could be sent to the presenter of the radio programme summarising the findings of your class.



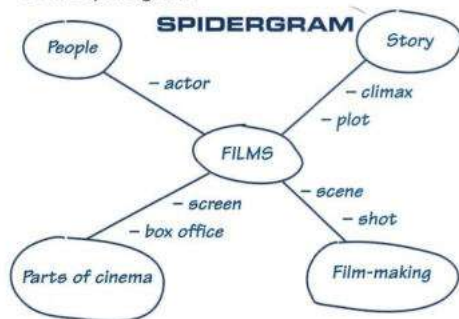
Vocabulary 1: recording vocabulary

1 Read the statements below. Which ones do you agree with?

- I like sitting right in the **front row** at the cinema.
- I prefer films that have a **happy ending**.
- I think the **special effects** in modern films are much better than in older ones.
- I admire film stars who do their own **stunts** instead of getting someone else to do them.
- I find films with lots of **flashbacks** very confusing – it's hard to follow the plot.
- I prefer films to plays because you can have **close-up shots** of the actors.
- I think Steven Spielberg is the greatest **director** alive today.

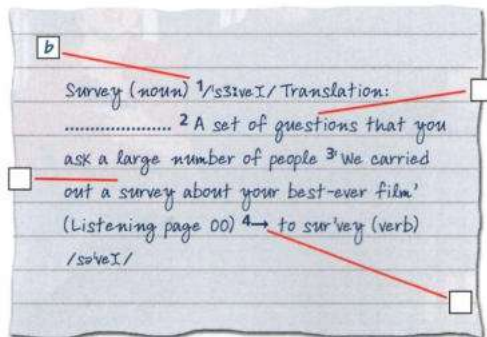
2 It will help you to remember new words if you review and record them after each lesson.

A spidergram is one way to record words related to the same topic. Look at the example below and add the highlighted words from Exercise 1. Then think of one more word to add to each part of the spidergram.



3 The following extract from a student's vocabulary notebook shows another way of recording vocabulary.

- Add the translation of the word in your own language.
- Which line points to
 - an example sentence?
 - the pronunciation?
 - related words?
 - the definition?



4 Discuss.

- What other ways of recording vocabulary have you used?
- Which have you found most effective?

5 Look back at the first two pages of the unit. Are there any other words you would like to record?

Grammar 1: revision of simple tenses

1

- 1** Some of the following sentences have mistakes in the use of the verb forms. Correct those you think are wrong, using present simple, past simple or present perfect forms. Use the highlighted time expressions to help you.

Example: All my life, I loved going to the cinema. Wrong. All my life, I've loved going to the cinema.

- I've met Carrie fifteen years ago.
- I usually sit in the back row when I go to the cinema with my friends.
- I've belonged to this club from 2001 to 2003.
- I've already seen that film – let's go to something different.
- He goes to the cinema at least twice every weekend. I haven't understood how he can do that!
- I saw the video of *The Godfather* six times so far.
- Have you ever been on television?
- Have you seen Steven Spielberg's latest film yet?
- When I was young, I've been to see my grandmother nearly every day.
- That's the best film I've seen for a long time.

- 2 Complete the table using the highlighted time expressions from Exercise 1.1.

Tense	Time expressions
present simple	always <i>usually</i>
present perfect	since <i>for</i>
past simple	

Watch Out! British and American English

- 1 I didn't have breakfast yet this morning.
2 I haven't had breakfast yet this morning.

The first sentence is acceptable in American English, but might sound strange to a British person. True or false?

► Grammar reference p.203 (19)

- 2 Complete the following pairs of sentences using words from the box. Each pair of sentences should have a similar meaning.

ago before ever for never since when

Example:

- a) Ever *since* I was six years old, I have been afraid of spiders.
b) I started being afraid of spiders *when* I was six years old.
- 1 a) My father last went on holiday ten years
b) It's been ten years my father last went on holiday.
- 2 a) I've had this car I passed my driving test.
b) I bought this car I passed my driving test.
- 3 a) I've known Steve four years.
b) I first met Steve four years
- 4 a) It's the first time I've been to an English-speaking country.
b) I've been to an English-speaking country before.
- 5 a) I've been friends with Jenny as long as I can remember.
b) I can't remember I started being friends with Jenny.
- 6 a) He's never appeared in a film
b) This is the first time he's appeared in a film.

- 3 Complete the following extracts using the verbs in brackets. Use the present simple, past simple or present perfect simple tenses.

AMERICAN ACTOR IS NEW LONDON THEATRE BOSS

Actor Kevin Spacey (1) (just/become) the new director of London's famous Old Vic theatre. He (2) (promise) to appear on stage himself and bring in big-name talent in his new role.

'I love making movies, but I (3) (always/love) the stage as well. This job is something that I (4) (think) about a lot and I am looking forward to the challenge,' he (5) (say).

Spacey, who (6) (win) Oscars for *The Usual Suspects* and *American Beauty*, (7) (fall) in love with the Old Vic after visiting it as a child.

MOVIE MAGAZINE DATELINE 10 February 2003

First Oscars for black actors

Actress Halle Berry (1) (become) the first black woman to win an Oscar for her part in the film *Monster's Ball*. She (2) (make) an emotional speech when she (3) (accept) the award at yesterday's Oscar ceremony in Hollywood. Berry (4) (also/appear) in the popular James Bond movie, *Die Another Day*. Another black actor, Denzel Washington, also (5) (win) the Oscar for best male actor for his role in *Training Day*.

MOVIE MAGAZINE DATELINE 25 March 2002

4

- 1 Make questions from these prompts.
How many can you answer?

- 1 How many times / Brad Pitt / marry?
2 Who / direct / *Titanic*?
3 Which football team / win / World Cup / five times?
4 In which country / *Lord of the Rings* / film?
5 Mel Gibson / ever win / an Oscar?
6 Can you name any musicals / win Oscars / last ten years?
7 Which famous English footballer / call / child / Romeo?
8 Who / usually present / evening news programme / television / your country?

- 2 Now ask another student your questions.
Which of you can answer most questions?

Reading: multiple matching (Part 3)

1 Look at the description below. Have you seen any television programmes like this?

Reality TV is a term for television shows based on a group of real people who are put in an unusual or dangerous situation, or given the chance to achieve an ambition. Their experiences are shown live on television as entertainment. Reality TV often takes the form of a game, in which the viewers vote for people to leave the show until there is only one left. This person is the winner and receives a prize.

2 You are going to read a magazine article about four ordinary people who have taken part in Reality TV programmes. Look through the article quickly and decide which person:

- 1 had to overcome a physical problem.
- 2 lived on an island.
- 3 won a singing competition.
- 4 used to be a builder.

Reality TV -

A Ron Copsey was one of a group of contestants who agreed to live for a year on a desert island, with cameras following their attempts to survive together. He left the island after five months, and later accused the producers of the show of misrepresenting him, claiming they had edited the film to make it look as if he was throwing a chair in the face of one of the women. 'I'm not an argumentative, aggressive, ¹nasty piece of work. It was shocking,' he told a journalist later. 'The producers led the public to believe that the other contestants were glad to ²see the back of me but it wasn't true.' After returning home from the island, Mr Copsey said he was unable to continue with his college course as other students wouldn't talk to him, and he had to take antidepressant pills. The television company has agreed to pay him £16,000 ³compensation.

B Craig Phillips was the winner of one of the first Reality TV programmes to be shown in England, called *Big Brother*. Craig was originally a builder, and comes from Liverpool. After the series ended he admitted: 'I don't know why I won – you'll have to ask all those people that voted for me.' Craig ⁴donated his £70,000 prize money to teenage friend Jo Harris, to help pay for a heart and lung operation in America. 'She is a unique young lady and it is wonderful to be in the position to help her,' he said at the time. Craig later had a five-album ⁵deal with a record company but he ⁶was dropped after his first single. However, he has continued to raise money for ⁷charities as well as appearing regularly on daytime television shows.

C Denise Leigh won joint first prize in a TV contest called *Operatunity*, in which ordinary people had the chance to be transformed into opera singers. But there is nothing ordinary about Denise. She is a blind woman of amazing determination who has succeeded ⁸against all the odds. She had always dreamed of a musical career, but this was prevented by the births of her children. Being a blind mother of three is a challenge. 'It's the hardest job in the world,' she says. 'Keeping them safe is definitely more worrying than anything that can happen to you on stage.' Now the children are all at school, she is free to



the road to success?

50 pursue her dreams, and after *Operatunity* she is better placed than she had ever hoped for. 'Now I have sung on stage at the London Coliseum I am a different person,' she said the morning after her *triumph*. 'Winning the contest has changed my life.'

55 **D Will Young** shot to success when he won the TV competition *Pop Idol* out of over a thousand contenders, and was offered a contract with a major record company. He is modest about his success. 'I don't think it's me myself
60 they're voting for, it's the TV contestant, and in that context I feel very *flattered* by it all,' he said. His first single, *Evergreen*, became the fastest-selling single of all time. It sold over a million copies in its first week. Will thinks that
65 being a pop idol isn't only a matter of having a good voice – there are generally other *factors* involved. 'Performers over the ages have always given off a kind of energy. I think it's about a whole image – the look, the clothes, the music –
70 which puts a distance between you and other people.'

3 Look at the questions below. For each question, you have to choose one of the people A–D.

TIP! Before you start, highlight the key words in each question. Then read quickly through the texts for words or phrases with a similar meaning.

To help you, the 'parallel expressions' have been highlighted for the first six questions.

Which person

- 1 is doing something *they always wanted to do?*
- 2 *gave away the money* they won on the show?
- 3 *received money* to *make up for the harm* done by the programme?
- 4 *shared the first place* in the competition with another person?
- 5 *was immediately successful* in their career after the programme?
- 6 *does not understand* the reasons for their success?
- 7 says the programme gave an untrue picture of them?

- 8 found their personal relationships were badly affected by the programme?
- 9 has done well in spite of a physical problem?
- 10 had a musical career that turned out to be disappointing?
- 11 feels they are different from the general public?
- 12 finds family life more stressful than giving a public performance?
- 13 feels the other participants were sorry he/she left?
- 14 feels their success is not just due to personal qualities?
- 15 had not expected to be in such a good situation at this stage in life?

4 Discuss.

Thousands of people apply to go on these shows. Would you apply to go on a Reality TV programme of any sort? Why?/Why not?

5 Find the numbered words and phrases 1–11 in the text. Look at the context, then choose the correct meaning a) or b).

- 1 a) someone who is likely to cause trouble
b) something very unpleasant

CLUE: This is a colloquial expression. Look back at the subject of the sentence to find who or what it refers to.

- 2 a) meet me
b) see me leave

CLUE: Another colloquial expression. In which situation would you see someone's back?

- 3 a) payment for work
b) payment for something that went wrong

CLUE: Does the previous sentence refer to work or to a problem?

- 4 a) gave b) took away
- 5 a) contract b) present
- 6 a) fell down b) was no longer used
- 7 a) big companies b) voluntary organisations
- 8 a) easily b) in spite of difficulties
- 9 a) success b) failure
- 10 a) pleased b) worried
- 11 a) voices b) things