

B2 First (FCE) Exam Preparation

What's B2 First (FCE)¹?

FCE (now known as B2 First) is the most popular Cambridge English Qualifications exam. It is accepted by thousands of educational institutions worldwide where a B2 level is required. A B2 First qualification proves you have the language skills to live and work independently in an English-speaking country or study on courses taught in English.

Course objectives

By the end of the course learners will develop and practice the skills necessary to pass the exam:

- Oral skills to communicate effectively, express opinions and present ideas and arguments clearly.
- Writing skills to express opinion, advantages and disadvantages of different points of view, as well as stories, letters and emails.
- Reading and listening comprehension skills to understand a range of texts.
- Familiarity with all parts of the exam and different question types. For example papers, and what's included in each, please visit <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/fr/exams-and-tests/first-for-schools/whats-in-the-exam/>

Approach to learning

At the British Council we offer high quality, effective English teaching to help learners build confidence, become better communicators, and prepare for their future, all in a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment. Preparing for the exam places the students in real-life situations and helps develop fluency and accuracy in written and spoken English through topics that are relevant to teenage learners.

Approach to assessment

Teachers give oral and written feedback on both class and homework throughout the year. A progress meeting with learners, parents and the teacher happens in February, and parents will receive two reports. The midyear report is sent in December/January and an end of year one, sent in June/July.

Students do an online mock exam in January/February. This helps us see whether the student is ready to do the exam this year, or whether further work is needed.

Learners are also encouraged to engage with self and peer assessment in lesson activities. This helps students think about their learning and the progress they are making. At the end of each lesson, teachers help students review their learning and record their thoughts in their Language Learning Notebook.

¹ <https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/fr/exams-and-tests/first-for-schools/>

Course syllabus – Coursebook: Spotlight on First

	Language	Reading and Use of English	Writing	Listening	Speaking
Sept-Oct	Present tenses review Family & relationships, jobs, sport and free time vocabulary Making comparisons Obligation and necessity	Parts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7	Writing a letter of introduction, focusing on self-correction techniques Part 1: an essay Part 2: a formal letter and an article	Parts 1, 3 & 4	Part 4: general conversation Part 1: Introducing yourself; questions Part 3: comparing
Nov-Dec	Nature and animals, books and films and travel vocabulary Narrative tenses Expressing the future	Parts 3, 5 & 7:	Part 1: an essay (revision) Part 2: a story	Parts 1, 3 & 4	Parts 2 & 3: Comparing photographs, exchanging stories, organising a schedule, speaking about holidays
Jan-Feb	Mock exam and feedback on the mock exam for all papers Inventors and inventing vocabulary Gerund or infinitive?	Parts 4 & 6	Part 2: a review	Part 2	Suggesting and recommending Part 3: discussing a topic
Mar-Apr	Relative clauses Expressions with the word get	Parts 1 & 7	Part 2: an article	Parts 3 & 4	Showing you're listening
May-Jun	Food and drink & shopping and consumerism vocabulary Used to and would Conditionals	Parts 4, 6 & 7	Revision	Parts 1, 3 & 4	Expressing preferences, regrets and suggestions Part 3: collaborative task

*Please note: The teacher will follow the general pace of the students in the class, addressing their group's needs and responding to their interests. This may inevitably sometimes translate to a divergence from the original timetable.