



International School
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Newsletter

The latest news about Cambridge ESOL Exams

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Cambridge ESOL has introduced important enhancements to the results information provided to candidates. These changes make exam results more useful for candidates, teachers and other users.

DID YOU TAKE A CAMBRIDGE ESOL EXAM IN JUNE 2010?

If so, remember that the **RESULTS** will be published at the end of July. Visit www.cambridgeesol-results.org to access them. Remember you will need your **Cambridge ID number** and your **Secret Code**. You can find these two numbers at the bottom of the **CONFIRMATION OF ENTRY** which Cambridge ESOL sent to the email address you provided us with when you registered for the exam.

Changes to Statement of Results

Now Cambridge ESOL provides candidates with a standardised score for the whole examination on a fixed scale out of 100. This score is an additional element to supplement the information already provided on the Statement of Results. Scores appear on the Statement of Results, but not on the certificate. The appearance of the Statement of Results has also been updated.

The benefit for candidates is that they will receive a more detailed description of their performance. A score on a scale of 100 allows candidates to see how well they performed *within a grade boundary*. So, for example, a candidate with a score of 62 on the **FCE** examination would have just succeeded in achieving a C grade, whereas a candidate with a score of 73 would have performed significantly better within the C grade band. Because this score is standardised, it also allows comparison across different sessions of an examination, and it means that the boundaries for each grade will be fixed year-on-year.

UK exam regulator **Ofqual** has formally accredited Cambridge Advanced grade **A** at level **3** in the **UK's National Qualifications Framework** (which is equivalent CEFR level C2) while grades B and C continue to be accredited at level 2.

Should you have any questions, need advice, or want to make a contribution to this NEWSletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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Changes to certification: **KET, PET, KET for Schools** and **PET for Schools**

Most Cambridge ESOL examinations test candidates at a particular level of ability, e.g. Council of Europe Level B1. Candidates who pass an examination receive a certificate indicating their performance within that level. Cambridge ESOL has introduced changes to certification in order to acknowledge the achievements of those candidates who do not meet the requirements of the level at which they are tested, but demonstrate ability at the level below. This only affects **KET, PET, KET for Schools** and **PET for Schools**.

Under the new system of certification for the above mentioned exams, successful candidates will continue to receive a certificate marked with one of the two passing grades – **Pass with Merit** or **Pass**.

Those who do not achieve a passing grade but have demonstrated ability at the Council of Europe level below the examination they have taken will be awarded a certificate showing that level.

For example, a candidate may narrowly fail the PET exam (mapped to Council of Europe Level B1) but demonstrate ability at the level below (Council of Europe Level A2). They will not qualify for a PET certificate, but will be issued with a certificate for the level below (Council of Europe Level A2).

Changes to certification: **CAE (one of the world's most widely recognised English language qualifications)**

For the **Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English**, certificates for candidates who achieve a **grade A** will show that their result is at level **C2** of the **Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**. Certificates for candidates with **grades B** and **C** will continue to show level **C1**.

This is an important development and reflects the reality of **Cambridge Advanced** – a high level exam first introduced in 1991 which proves that candidates have the language skills they need to succeed in higher education in an English-speaking environment. Cambridge Advanced is already widely recognised by universities and employers around the world, and this will make the exam more appealing to candidates who want to demonstrate a very high level of ability in English. Material in the exam continues to be set at level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), but candidates who achieve grade A have shown evidence of proficiency at the C2 level in some or all of the areas assessed.