

CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED ENGLISH (CAE)

CAE is a general proficiency examination at Level C1 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference. It is at Level 2 in the UK National Qualifications Framework.

Further details of CAE are given in the CAE Handbook, and at www.cambridgeesol.org

For CAE, there are three passing grades, A, B and C. Candidates who have achieved a Grade A have demonstrated ability at Council of Europe Level C2. Candidates who have not achieved a CAE passing grade (Council of Europe Level C1) but have demonstrated ability at the level below this, are awarded a certificate stating Council of Europe Level B2.

A † symbol next to the grade indicates that the candidate was exempt from satisfying the full range of assessment objectives in the examination.

The Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference covers six levels of language proficiency. Research carried out by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE) shows what learners can typically do at each level. The table below gives examples of typical ability in each of the skill areas for Council of Europe Levels C2, C1 and B2.

Level C2	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN advise on or talk about complex or sensitive issues, understanding colloquial references and deal confidently with difficult questions.	CAN understand various documents, including the finer points of complex texts, and CAN write letters and meeting notes with good expression and accuracy.
Level C1	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN contribute effectively to meetings and seminars within own area of work or keep up a casual conversation with a good degree of fluency, coping with abstract expressions.	CAN read quickly enough to cope with an academic course, and CAN take reasonably accurate notes in meetings or write a piece of work which shows an ability to communicate.
Social & Tourist	CAN pick up nuances of meaning/opinion. CAN keep up conversations of a casual nature for an extended period of time and discuss abstract/cultural topics with a good degree of fluency and range of expression.	CAN understand complex opinions/arguments as expressed in serious newspapers. CAN write most letters (s)he is likely to be asked to do; such errors as occur will not prevent understanding of the message.
Work	CAN follow discussion and argument with only occasional need for clarification, employing good compensation strategies to overcome inadequacies. CAN deal with unpredictable questions.	CAN understand the general meaning of more complex articles without serious misunderstanding. CAN, given enough time, write a report that communicates the desired message.
Study	CAN follow up questions by probing for more detail. CAN make critical remarks/express disagreement without causing offence.	CAN scan texts for relevant information, and grasp main topic of text. CAN write a piece of work whose message can be followed throughout.
Level B2	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN follow a talk on a familiar topic. CAN keep up a conversation on a fairly wide range of topics.	CAN scan texts for relevant information. CAN make notes while someone is talking or write a letter including non-standard requests.

Further information and examples of the ability statements can be found at www.alte.org

Any alteration to this certificate renders it invalid and use of an altered certificate could constitute a criminal offence.

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations provides a results verification service to help organisations and agencies quickly and securely validate candidates' Cambridge ESOL examination results at <https://verification.cambridgeesolonline.org>