

## Frequently Asked Questions

This document is to provide candidates with more information about the Cambridge: First and Advanced exams, including information on:

- The exam itself
- English language levels
- Taking the exam
- Registration
- Paying for the exam
- Preparing for the exam
- Results and certificates
- Cancellation

### The Exam Itself

#### How long does the exam take?

*All day. Times are usually from 9.00 until 16.00. Exact times will be confirmed to candidates about 2 weeks before the exam. Candidates should arrive at our centre at 8.30.*

#### Is it a paper based or computer based exam?

*ILS English offers the paper based exam.*

#### Is the speaking paper on the same day as the main exam?

*We cannot guarantee that the speaking paper will be on the same day as the written exam: however, it always has been. You will be told of the date and time of the speaking paper about 2 weeks before the exam date.*

#### How long is the qualification valid for?

*The qualification is valid forever and does not have a limited validity as other exams do.*

### English Language Levels

#### What level do I need to be to take the exam?

*Cambridge: First is for students at Upper Intermediate (CEFR B2), and Cambridge: Advanced is for students at Advanced (CEFR C1).*

#### How do I know if I am at the right level to take the exam?

*You can do the test on the Cambridge site to see if you are ready to take the exam.*

<http://www.cambridgeesol.org/test-your-english/index.php>

### Taking the Exam

#### Where is your centre?

*Our centre is based 1 km north of Nottingham city centre.*

**How do I get to the centre?**

The centre is a 20-30 minute walk from the city centre. Regular buses from the city centre go to our centre every 5 minutes. Taxis cost around £5.00 from the city centre.

**What do I need to bring to the exam?**

You must bring your passport or national identity card (the same document you used when you registered for the exam) and your Confirmation of Entry. You should also bring pens, pencils & erasers; you may bring water in a clear plastic bottle, food and any personal medication.

**What can't I take into the exam room?**

You are not allowed to take the following: mobile phone, camera, electronic items, dictionary, correction tape/fluid, paper, bags or luggage. Any of these personal items will be kept securely by exam centre staff during the exam.

**What time is the exam and what time should I arrive?**

The exams usually start at 9.00. Candidates should arrive at the ILS centre at 8.30.

**Is there a break during the exam?**

There is a short break between each paper: paper 1 & paper 2 (+/- 8 mins)  
paper 2 & paper 3 (+/- 20 mins)  
paper 3 & paper 4 (+/- 8 mins)

## Registration

**How do I register?**

Complete the application form and make the payment directly to ILS English before the deadline. You will then receive the Confirmation of Entry (CoE) and full instructions.

**When must I register by?**

You should register approximately 6 weeks before the exam. Check our dates and fees section for exact dates. You can register after this time but you may incur a late entry fee.

## Paying for the exam

**How much does it cost to take the exam?**

The fees for are £120 Cambridge: First, and £125 for Cambridge: Advanced. Late Entry Fees will be charged after the entry deadline, and your application will be accepted at the discretion of ILS English. Additional postage fees will be charged if you require your results and certificate to be sent by registered post.

**How can I pay?**

You can pay by cash directly at our centre, by cheque from a UK bank account, by postal order made payable to 'ILS English' or by bank transfer (contact ILS for bank details).

**When must I pay?**

You must pay as soon as possible after you have sent your application form. Applications are not confirmed until payment has been received.

## Preparation

### **Do you offer exam preparation training courses?**

*Yes. We offer preparation courses for both Cambridge: First and Cambridge: Advanced at our training centre. We run Cambridge: First and Cambridge: Advanced courses all year round and students can study from 2 – 12 weeks prior to the exam. We also run intensive 4 week exam programmes in the summer. Check the course pages on our website for more information.*

*\*subject to demand*

## Results and Certificate

### **When will I receive the results?**

*Online, approximately 4 weeks after the exam.*

### **How will I receive the results?**

*Results are made available on the Cambridge website. Your personal access details for your online results are on your Confirmation of Entry (CoE) document. This is sent to you prior to the exam.*

### **Will I receive the certificate at the same time as the results?**

*No. You will receive the certificate approximately 2 months after the exam.*

### **Does the result provide a breakdown for each skill or is it an overall score?**

*Online – breakdown, yes. On your certificate – no, overall score.*

## Cancelling the Exam

### **What would happen if I had enrolled for the exam and then had to cancel?**

*If you cancel after the deadline for entry for medical reasons, then you will need to complete a form and provide a medical certificate. Any refund will be at the discretion of University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.*