

November 2008

Focus on FCE – Paper 3: Use of English

45 minutes

There are now 42 questions. The error correction task is no longer included. Correct spelling is important in all parts of the papers. When doing exam practice, students should be encouraged to read through the whole of the text so that they have a good idea of what it is about, before they begin to answer any questions.

Focus on FCE – Paper 4: Listening

40 minutes

Paper 4 is the same length and number of questions (30 questions). The range of task types for Parts 2 and 4 was removed: In Part 2 it is now a sentence completion task only and in Part 4 it is a three-option multiple choice task only. The best preparation for the Listening papers is exposure to, and engagement with, a wide range of spoken English. It is obviously desirable for students to encounter a variety of different accents: for example, American, Australian, Canadian as well as regional UK accents – for example, Northern, Scottish, London – bearing in mind that any accent in the papers will be relatively mild.

Focus on FCE – Paper 5: Speaking

14 minutes

Paper 5 keeps the same format*, timing and interaction patterns but Parts 2 and 3 now have written questions on the visuals sheets to provide more support to candidates. Candidates should be made aware that they need to listen carefully to the interlocutor's instructions, and refer to the written questions on the visuals page to remind them of what they have to do in the Part 2 and Part 3 tasks. They should also be encouraged to react to the visuals and relate them to the task rather than simply describe them.

*The standard format is two candidates and two examiners. One examiner, the interlocutor, interacts with the candidates as well as assessing the interaction. The other examiner, the main assessor, does not join in the interaction.

FCE and CAE – Fact sheets

If you'd like to receive detailed fact sheets explaining all the changes to FCE and CAE, please write to us and we'll email them to you.

What does success look like?

Does your institution organise a 'Ceremonia de Exámenes' to hand out Cambridge ESOL certificates to successful candidates? Let us know about it!



Successful candidates at Primaria del Colegio Americano de Tabasco in Villahermosa, Tab.

Congratulations!