

CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH (CPE)

CPE is a general proficiency examination at Level C2 in the Council of Europe's Common European Framework of Reference. It is at Level 3 in the UK National Qualifications Framework.

Further details of CPE are given in the CPE Handbook, and at www.cambridgeenglish.org

CPE results are reported using scores on the Cambridge English Scale. CPE certificates are awarded to candidates who achieve the following grades:

Grade A - CEFR Level C2 (score 220-230)

Grade B - CEFR Level C2 (score 213-219)

Grade C - CEFR Level C2 (score 200-212)

Candidates who have not achieved a CPE passing grade, but score between 180 and 199, receive a Cambridge English certificate stating they demonstrated ability at CEFR Level C1.

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 and C1.

Level C2	Listening and Speaking	Reading and Writing
Overall general ability	CAN advise on or talk about complex or sensitive issues, understand 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.
Social & Tourist	CAN understand detailed, complex discussions (for example in a radio interview). CAN talk about complex or sensitive issues without awkwardness.	CAN understand complex opinions/arguments as expressed in serious newspapers. CAN write letters on any subject with good expression and accuracy.
Work	CAN handle complex, delicate or contentious issues. CAN argue effectively for or against a case, and has sufficient language to be able to talk about/discuss most aspects of her/his work.	CAN understand reports and most articles including complex ideas expressed in complex language. CAN write quite lengthy reports with only the occasional, minor error, and without taking much longer than a native speaker.
Study	CAN understand colloquial asides and cultural allusions. CAN follow abstract argumentation, for example the balancing of alternatives and the drawing of a conclusion.	CAN access all sources of information quickly and reliably. CAN make accurate and complete notes during the course of a lecture, seminar or tutorial.
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.

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.

Cambridge English Language Assessment provides a results verification service to help organisations and agencies quickly and securely validate candidates' Cambridge English examination results at <https://verifier.cambridgeenglish.org>