

CAMBRIDGE
EXAMINATIONS, CERTIFICATES & DIPLOMAS

FCE

FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH

PAPER 2 SAMPLE PAPERS

English as a
Foreign Language

Part 1

You **must** answer this question.

- 1 You are studying in Cambridge at present and two friends from your country are coming to visit you next month. During their visit they would especially like to spend a few days in Edinburgh and you are planning to go with them. A travel agency has given you the following information. Read it carefully. Then write a letter to your friends, giving them some information about the three different ways of travelling to Edinburgh. Suggest which you think is the best way and explain why.



Cambridge to Edinburgh - 540 km

CAR

Car hire: £40 a day plus petrol and

TRAIN

Cambridge dep.	Edinburgh arr.
07.00	12.15
07.56	13.38
09.00	14.12

Return fare: £90 (Friday and Saturday)
£75 (all other days)
30% off with a young person's rail card.

COACH

Cambridge dep.	Edinburgh arr.
11.00	22.05
18.08	06.35
22.30	12.25

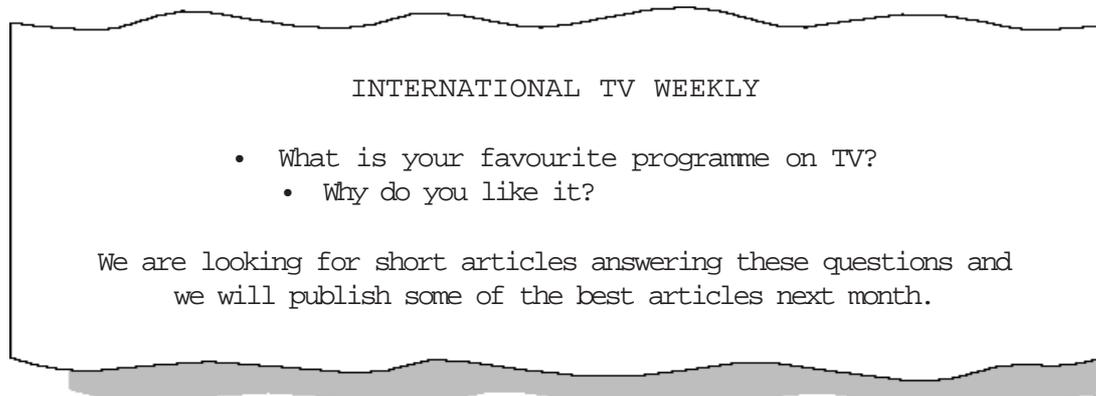
Return fare: £60 (Friday and Saturday)
£45 (all other days)
30% off with a young person's coach

Write a **letter** of between **120 and 180** words in an appropriate style on the opposite page. Do not write any addresses.

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the Questions **2 – 5** in this part. Write your answer in **120 – 180** words in an appropriate style on the opposite page, putting the question number in the box.

2 You have just seen the following advertisement:



Write your **article** for the International TV Weekly magazine.

3 You have been asked to write a story for a student magazine beginning with these words:

I wanted to give my best friend a surprise ...

Write your **story**.

4 You are going to start a short English course at a new language school. To help the school to put you in the most suitable class for you, you have been asked to write a report for the Director of Studies, describing what you find easy and what you find difficult about learning English.

Write your **report**.

5 Background reading texts

Answer **one** of the following two questions based on your reading of **one** of the five set books:

A Passage to India - E M Forster

Rebecca - Daphne du Maurier

Crime Never Pays - Oxford Bookworm Collection

Pygmalion - G B Shaw

Brave New World - Aldous Huxley

Your answer should contain enough detail to make it clear to someone who may not have read the book. Write the letter **(a)** or **(b)** as well as the number **5** in the question box, and the **title** of the book next to the box.

Either (a) Which part of the book do you think is most important and why?

Or (b) Write a short article for your college magazine about the character in the book which you would most like to meet and the questions which you would ask that

QUESTION 1

TASK-SPECIFIC MARK SCHEME

Content

Major points: Reference to forthcoming holiday.
Information about the different ways of travelling to Edinburgh, with reference to cost and time/distance.
Suggestion of best option and reason(s) why.

Minor points: Any additional information.

Organisation and Cohesion

Clear opening to letter. Cohesive devices may be used to contrast the different ways of travelling. Suitable paragraphing. Appropriate ending.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Informal letter.

Range

Language of description, comparison and suggestion.
Vocabulary relating to travel.

Target Reader

Would have enough information on which to base an evaluation of the writer's suggestion.

CANDIDATE A

Dear my friends,

I received your letter and I'm writing about going to Edinburgh with you next month. I went to a travel agency and got some information. If we go there by car, the cost will be £40 a day plus petrol and insurance. It's the cheapest. But we'll have to rent a car and will have to find parking.

If we go there by coach, the cost will be £45 unless we go there on Friday or Saturday. But it'll take us about 10 hours.

So shall we go there by train.

The cost will be £75 unless we go there on Friday or Saturday. It'll take us about five hours. We can spend most of the time in Edinburgh. I'm going to get the tickets and am planning about what we do there.

If you have questions or good idea, call or write me as soon as possible. Otherwise see you next month.

Look forward to seeing you.

Love Louise

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

All major content points have been included, with a clear suggestion of best option; expressed very simply - *So shall we go there by train.*

Accuracy

The errors do not obscure communication (apart from *find parks*), though they occasionally distract the reader e.g. *Dear my friends; If you have questions or good idea, call or write me as soon as possible.*

Organisation and Cohesion

The letter is well organised and gets straight into the task. Ideas are suitably paragraphed and an attempt has been made at appropriate opening and closing formulae.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Friendly tone e.g. *Otherwise see you next month.*

Range

An adequate range of structure and vocabulary for the task with some good tense control e.g. *The cost will be £75 unless we go ...*

Target Reader

Would be adequately informed.

Band 3

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter, which I got it yesterday. I was very surpraised that you and Juan are deecided to coma to visit me next month. You couldn't have chosen a better time because I'll have my hafe-term brake from school so I'll be able to spend whole week with you. I've already made a few attempts to find out, the cheapest way to get to Edinburgh, as you said you wanted to see this place. In my opinion, the best way is to get a train from Cambridge to Edinburgh, because the juorney is quite long and tairing. However, this is not the cheapest one.

Another way to get there is by coach but the time we'll be there is late evening or early morning and we'll have to travel for whole night and I know how you hate traveling by coach. There is another possibility to travel there, which is hiring a car, it is quite cheap and convinient but I can't drive here and so you because of right hand driving. I hope all the informtion which I provide here will help you to make the right deciedion. I can't wait to see you here, I'm sure we'll have a grate time. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Love

Julia

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

Good realisation of the task set, though the letter is over-long.

Accuracy

There are several basic spelling errors e.g. *surpraised; brake; tairing*. Errors occur even when more complex language is not attempted e.g. *which I got it; you and Juan are deecided*. These keep it in Band 3.

Organisation and Cohesion

Paragraphs are not always clear, but good linking devices are used e.g. *Another way to get there; ... as you said you wanted ...*

Appropriacy of Register and Format

A consistently friendly tone, appropriate to the purpose and audience, with direct personal reference.

Range

Good range of structures e.g. *you couldn't have chosen; ... so I'll be able to spend; ... I know how you hate traveling*.

Target Reader

Would have enough information on which to base an evaluation.

Band 3

QUESTION 2

TASK-SPECIFIC MARK SCHEME

Content

Description of favourite TV programme, including title of the programme. Reasons for liking it.

Range

Language of description and opinion. Expressions of preference. Vocabulary relating to TV.

Organisation and Cohesion

Clear opening to the article, with early reference to the programme chosen. Suitable paragraphing. Conclusion.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Consistently semi formal or informal, possibly within a letter.

Target Reader

Would learn something about the programme and understand why the writer likes it so much.

CANDIDATE C

My favourite TV programme

I write to give an opinion on one of the TV programmes. It's 'Cooking is fun' directed by a well-known cook, Stiven Watson. It may not seem to be very interesting, but let me explain what a good this programme makes to people.

Most of us doesn't like to cook and usually buys food which is almost ready to serve. And I was one of those before I switched on the TV once. Stiven teaches step by step, that cooking can be easy and what's more, pleasant. The recipes he gives are clearly understood, and all the pieces of the dish, you are going to make, are easy to buy. That puts you in a comfortable situation in which you feel that you are able to do it. Following the instructions, you can make a great supper or bake a delicious cake without too much difficulties. All you need is a good will. That's why I appreciate this programme, because it's not for the best, for those who already tasted cooking. It's for those who think that kitchen is the part of the house, where they don't need to come in, unless they want to have a drink.

I give the highest mark to the producers and I hope they won't give up persuading that cooking is fun.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

Good realisation of the task, though the article is over-long.

Accuracy

Patchy. The writing is awkward in places e.g. *...because it's not for the best, for those who already tasted cooking*. Errors occur mainly when attempting more complex language e.g. *Most of us doesn't like to cook and usually buys food...* some poor punctuation e.g. *...of the dish, you are going to make...*

Range

Ambitious use of vocabulary and some structures e.g. *'Following the instructions, you can make a ...'*,

'step by step', 'I hope they won't give up persuading...'.

Organisation and Cohesion

Reasonably clearly organised.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Appropriate.

Target Reader

Would have a clear idea of the programme.

Band 4

QUESTION 3

TASK-SPECIFIC MARK SCHEME

Content

Personal story that continues from the words given. Should include reference to a best friend and some sort of surprise.

Range

Narrative. Past tenses. Relevant vocabulary.

Organisation and Cohesion

Could be minimally paragraphed, but clear progression in the story through linking devices and sequencing.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Consistently informal or neutral. NB Written for a weekly magazine.

Target Reader

Would be able to follow the storyline.

CANDIDATE D

I wanted to give my best friend a surprise to visit african Countries partcularly french speaking countries Zaire and Senegal.
When I gave last mounth a travel document to my best friend she was surprise, happy; She told me, your are kindly, since my childhood I wish to spend more time in Africa, it is the best surprise for me. I would like to visit a volcan and okopi animals in the natural park; says my friend.
One week to ago, Josiana is name, told her parents, who were glad for Josiana's visit. When we fly to Zaire, Josiana meet another friends enthousiast, beautifull. and she decide to live in Zaire where she established a foundation for help the blind people. Josiana realise her dream.
This story is true.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

The task is attempted but not adequately achieved.

Accuracy

Many basic errors, some of which may obscure communication at times e.g. *One week to ago, Josiana is name, told her parents, who were glad for Josiana's visit.* Limited evidence of language control.

Range

Limited structural range which is not adequate to cover the task. Vocabulary is reasonable in parts e.g. *where she established a foundation ...*

Organisation and Cohesion

Ideas are inadequately organised and paragraphed. Linking devices are rarely used.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Inconsistent.

Target Reader

The message is not clearly communicated.

Band 2

QUESTION 4

TASK-SPECIFIC MARK SCHEME

Content

Description of what is easy and what is difficult for the writer.

Range

Language of description and opinion. Vocabulary relating to learning a language.

Organisation and Cohesion

Clear opening to report. Suitable paragraphing. Concluding sentence.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Formal register. Report may begin in the form of a letter. Sub-headings may be used.

Target Reader

Would know enough about the writer to place them in a suitable class.

CANDIDATE E

To Director of Studies.

Dear Sir.

My name is Anna. I came to London to improve my English language and I decided to take an English course at your school. I'm writing this letter to help you put me in the most suitable class for me. I used to learn English at school in my country but it was only reading and writing including some old grammatical rules.

I have found the most difficult for me English pronunciation, phrasal verbs and some specific constructions of sentences, probably idioms. My vocabulary is not good enough, I know just some of the basic, mostly using sounds. I need to renew my knowledge about English grammar as well. I realized some rules have changed or they are not using by English people nowadays. I hope I can find opportunity in your school to use English mainly speaking with another students.

Your sincerely,
Anna

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

The candidate has not described what is easy explicitly, but the difficulties are covered fully.

Accuracy

A number of basic errors e.g. *another students; they are not using by ...* which don't impede communication.

Range

This is a typical FCE answer - just satisfactory. There is an adequate range of structure and vocabulary. More ambitious attempts appear clumsy e.g. *I need to renew my knowledge about...; I have found the most difficult for me English pronunciation.*

Organisation and Cohesion

Adequate with a clear opening and concluding sentence. The closing formula is problematic - *your sincerely*.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

It is a report within a letter format, which is acceptable.

Target Reader

Would know which class to put her in!

Band 3

To describe my good points and weak points in learning English, I should like to mention on 5 skills of operating English.

(1) Listening - In general, I am good at listening, but there is a weak point. I am not used to dialects or accents especially northern accents, because I am surrounded by RP speakers.

(2) Pronunciation - I do not have such a big problem, but I would like to improve my skill by learning how to link words together and special rules.

(3) Writing - As I do not have enough vocabulary, I sometimes face difficulties in writing, especially in formal styles. Essay writing is my weak point.

(4) Reading - I have gained skills like scanning and skimming, but I still have difficulty in intensive reading.

(5) Seminar Skills - This is the weakest skill of mine. I am not good at interrupting into other's discussion, but when it is in a small group, I feel more confidence. I like presentation using some visual aids like overhead projectors.

As a whole, I need to improve skills (3), (4) and (5) in the list above, so I would like to experience essay writing and debates or discussions in your English course.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

The task has been realised.

Accuracy

Generally accurate but errors occur when attempting more complex language e.g. *I should like to mention on 5 skills of operating English.*

Range

Within the limits of the task set this is more than adequate e.g. *I would like to improve my skill by learning how to...* A range of relevant topic vocabulary has been used e.g. *accents; scanning and skimming; visual aids.*

Organisation and Cohesion

Well organised.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

The register is consistently appropriate. The candidate has employed an appropriate report format, which uses numbered points and topic headings effectively.

Target Reader

The report would have a positive effect on the reader, who would know exactly which class to place the writer in!

Band 4

TASK-SPECIFIC MARK SCHEME

Content

Summary of the part of the book the writer thinks is most important. Explanation why.

Range

Language of summarising and explanation.

Organisation and Cohesion

Linking of summary and explanation.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Neutral. Composition layout.

Target Reader

Would understand why the writer thinks the part of the book chosen is most important.

CANDIDATE G

Passage to India. By E.M. Forster

The part of the book I think is most important is the description of the trial where Dr. Aziz was accused of having assaulted Miss Quested at the Marabar Caves. The fact took place during a visit to the caves that occurred a few days after Miss Quested arrived to India. She visited the caves with other British friends but entered in one cave all by herself. Finding herself alone she became very frightened and, after hearing strange noises, she became really frightened. So she thought that Dr. Aziz was near her, pushing her and trying to assault her. In panic, she ran away and accused him of having assaulted her. It was during the trial that she realised she could be wrong and found herself in an awkward position: she was ashamed of having accused him without reason and, on the other hand, she was afraid of what might be the reaction of her British friends that had supported her kindly.

I think she was really brave in having admitted her mistake and I admire her for having enough courage to admit her fault despite all prejudices she could have.

EXAMINER COMMENTS

Content

Summarises the part of the book the writer thinks is important and the explanation required by the task is implicit in the final paragraph.

Accuracy

Minimal errors only e.g. *arrived to India, entered in one cave, In panic, she ran away*, but generally the candidate shows good control.

Range

There is a wide range of structure and vocabulary e.g. *...was accused of having assaulted ...; ... and I admire her for having enough courage to admit her fault despite ...*

Organisation and Cohesion

Well organised with a variety of linking devices e.g. *...the description of the trial where ...; Finding herself alone she ...*

Appropriacy of Register and Format

Consistently appropriate.

Target Reader

Would understand why the writer thinks the part of the book chosen is most important.

Band 5