

First Certificate content and overview

Part/timing	Content	Test focus
1 READING 1 hour	Part 1 A text followed by eight multiple-choice questions. Part 2 A text from which seven sentences have been removed and placed in a jumbled order, together with an additional sentence, after the text. Part 3 A text or several short texts preceded by 15 multiple-matching questions.	Candidates are expected to show understanding of specific information, text organisation features, tone, text structure.
2 WRITING 1 hour 20 minutes	Part 1 One compulsory question. Part 2 Candidates choose one task from a choice of five questions (including the set text options).	Candidates are expected to be able to write non-specialised text types such as an article, an essay, a letter, an email, a report, a review or a short story, with a focus on advising, apologising, comparing, describing, explaining, expressing opinions, justifying, persuading, recommending, suggesting.
3 USE OF ENGLISH 45 minutes	Part 1 A modified cloze test containing 12 gaps and followed by 12 multiple-choice items. Part 2 A modified open cloze test containing 12 gaps. Part 3 A text containing 10 gaps. Each gap corresponds to a word. The stems of the missing words are given beside the text and must be changed to form the missing word. Part 4 Eight separate questions, each with a lead-in sentence and a gapped second sentence to be completed in two to five words, one of which is given a 'key word'.	Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to apply their knowledge of the language system by completing a number of tasks.
4 LISTENING Approximately 40 minutes	Part 1 A series of eight short unrelated extracts from monologues or exchanges between interacting speakers. There is one multiple-choice question per extract. Part 2 A monologue or text involving interacting speakers, with a sentence completion task which has 10 questions. Part 3 Five short related monologues, with five multiple-matching questions. Part 4 A monologue or text involving interacting speakers, with seven multiple-choice questions.	Candidates are expected to be able to show understanding of attitude, detail, function, genre, gist, main idea, opinion, place, purpose, situation, specific information, relationship, topic, agreement, etc.
5 SPEAKING 14 minutes	Part 1 A conversation between the interlocutor and each candidate (spoken questions). Part 2 An individual 'long turn' for each candidate, with a brief response from the second candidate (visual and written stimuli, with spoken instructions). Part 3 A two-way conversation between candidates (visual and written stimuli, with spoken instructions). Part 4 A discussion on topics related to Part 3 (spoken questions).	Candidates are expected to be able to respond to questions and to interact in conversational English.