

FCE: Use of English

Paper 3

The new FCE Exam: Use of English paper

Summary of changes

This examination has changed. There used to be five parts of paper 3 (Use of English). Now, there are four parts. The length of the examination has also changed, from 1 hour 15 minutes (65 questions) to 45 minutes (42 questions).

The four parts of the FCE Use of English paper are as follows:

- 1 Multiple choice cloze
- 2 Open cloze
- 3 Word formation
- 4 Key word transformations

The main change is that the 'Error correction' part of the exam no longer exists, but it's still a good idea to try all of the error correction tasks in *Test it, Fix it FCE: Use of English*. All of these tasks contain useful revision of language that may be covered in the exam. Remember, too, that error correction is still a valuable strategy to use in your language learning. Every time you write an essay, you will need to go back and edit your work for errors. You will also need to check and edit your work in the Writing paper (Paper 2) of the FCE exam.

Here's a description of what you need to do in each part of paper 3, and the changes that you need to know about.

Part 1: multiple choice cloze

In part 1, you read a text with 12 gaps and choose from four options (A-D) to complete the text. The focus of this task is mainly on vocabulary, but the answer you choose needs to fit both the meaning and the grammar of the sentence. Part 1 includes words that have similar meanings, e.g. *rob* and *steal*; collocations, e.g. *accept responsibility*; phrasal verbs, e.g. *put up*; linking words, e.g. *but, as*; prepositional phrases, e.g. *as for, because of*, and fixed expressions, e.g. *make money, go to school*.

What's changed?

There used to be 15 gaps in each text. Now there are 12. The vocabulary focus remains the same.

Part 2: open cloze

In part 1, you also read a text with 12 gaps, but this time you write one word in each gap. The focus of this task is grammar and vocabulary. The missing words are often grammatical ones, but may also be part of a phrase or expression. The words may be articles, e.g. *a, the*; prepositions, e.g. *on, in*; linking words, e.g. *unless, despite*; pronouns, e.g. *that, which*; comparatives, e.g. *more, most*; parts of phrasal verbs, e.g. *give up, run out of*; auxiliary verbs, e.g. *be, do, can*; quantifiers, e.g. *a lot of, several*; and determiners, e.g. *both, neither*.

What's changed?

There used to be 15 gaps in each text. Now there are 12. The grammar and vocabulary focus remains the same.

Part 3: word formation

In part 3, you read a text with 10 gaps. There is a word in capitals at the end of each line which has a gap. You use these words to form new words to complete the text, e.g. adjectives from nouns, verbs from adjectives. You may need to add prefixes, suffixes and make internal changes to the words. Be careful! Sometimes you have to make more than one change to form the new word. You also need to spell the new word correctly.

What's changed?

This part of paper 3 used to be part 5. Now it's part 3. The vocabulary and structure focus remains the same.

Part 4: key word transformations

In part 3, you rewrite 8 sentences using a given word. This task focuses on grammar and vocabulary, and the language tested may include: grammatical patterns, auxiliary words, phrasal verbs, reported speech, passive forms, 'unreal' past, gerunds and infinitives, modal verbs, verb tenses, comparisons, conditionals, changing from a noun to a verb structure, and vice versa.

What's changed?

This part of paper 3 used to be part 3. Now it's part 4. There used to be 10 sentences to rewrite, but now there are 8. The grammar and vocabulary focus remains the same.

How can I learn more about the FCE exam?

For example tests and a description of all the papers in the FCE exam, go to:

<http://www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/general-english/fce.html>