



Marking Scheme

Summary for schools. The answer keys for the current year's papers are issued to partners only.

1. Principles

- 1 Each paper is marked in the way the examination it is modelled on is marked. A pupil who sits the grade 8 paper is marked as a candidate for Cambridge Preliminary for Schools would be.
- 2 Every question has one correct answer and is worth one point. The piece of writing in grades 8 to 11 is worth 5 points and is marked on a guide.
- 3 Results are reported by part of the paper, so that a pupil and a teacher can see which skill needs work.

2. Points by grade

Grade	Level	Questions	Writing	Total points	Time
1	Pre A1 Starters	20	—	20	30 min
2	Pre A1 Starters	22	—	22	30 min
3	Pre A1 / A1 Starters and Movers	25	—	25	30 min
4	A1 Movers	32	—	32	30 min
5	A2 Flyers	30	—	30	30 min
6	A2 Key for Schools	29	—	29	30 min
7	A2 Key for Schools	27	—	27	30 min
8	A2+ / B1 Preliminary for Schools	19	5	24	30 min
9	B1 Preliminary for Schools	17	5	22	30 min
10	B1+ / B2 First for Schools, TOEFL ITP	16	5	21	30 min
11	B2 First / IELTS	18	5	23	30 min

Numbers for the current year. They may change slightly from year to year with the paper.

3. Questions

- 1 One point for each correct answer. No points are deducted for wrong answers.
- 2 Where a word is to be written, the spelling must be correct. Where the key lists alternatives separated by a slash, any one of them is accepted.

- 3 Where two answers are given for one question, no point is awarded.
- 4 A crossed-out answer with a new answer written beside it is marked on the new answer.

4. The piece of writing, grades 8 to 11

An e-mail or a story of a few sentences, with a required length between 25 and 100 words depending on the grade, meant to take about seven minutes. Marked on this guide:

Points	What the marker sees
5	All the points in the task covered clearly, in complete sentences; the required length reached; the right form (an e-mail with greeting and closing, or a story that follows the opening sentence); only small mistakes.
3 to 4	All or most points covered; some mistakes in grammar, vocabulary or spelling, but the message is clear; may be slightly short or loosely organised.
1 to 2	Only one point covered, or very short, or so many mistakes that the message is hard to understand.
0	Nothing written, or not about the task.

5. Diplomas

- 1 Diplomas of the first, second and third degree are awarded on total points within a grade and a country. As a guide, the top 5 per cent receive a first-degree diploma, the next 10 per cent a second-degree diploma and the next 15 per cent a third-degree diploma.
- 2 Where several pupils share the points at a threshold, all receive the higher award.
- 3 Every other participant receives a diploma of participation.

6. Standardisation

- 1 Before marking, each partner marks a set of standardisation scripts supplied by the editorial group and compares its marks with the reference marks.
- 2 After marking, the editorial group second-marks a sample of scripts from each partner. Where a partner's marks for the piece of writing differ systematically from the reference, they are adjusted before results are issued.