

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

English as a Second Language 0510

Assessment Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

How the qualification is assessed

The table shows the papers and components described for this syllabus. All candidates take the required components described below. A component's raw mark is the total available on that assessment; its weighting is the share of the qualification result, which may differ from its share of raw marks.

Paper or component	Duration	Raw marks	Weighting	Question or task structure
1: Reading and Writing	2 h	60	70%	Six exercises: four reading and two writing
2: Listening	Approx. 50 min	40	30%	Five exercises
3: Speaking	Approx. 10-15 min	40	Separate endorsement	Interview, short talk and discussion

Read the weighting against your qualification route. A longer paper or a larger raw-mark total does not automatically mean a greater final weighting. Prepare for every component that applies to you, including practical, oral or coursework requirements where specified.

What each component requires

All candidates complete three components.

Component 1, Reading and Writing, lasts two hours and is worth sixty marks. It contains six exercises: four assessing reading and two assessing writing. Questions include structured tasks and extended writing. This component contributes seventy per cent of the overall qualification grade.

Component 2 is an approximately fifty-minute listening examination worth forty marks and thirty per cent of the qualification. You listen to five exercises containing both short and longer texts and answer multiple-choice-style questions.

Component 3 is a speaking test lasting approximately ten to fifteen minutes. It includes an assessed interview, a short talk with up to one minute of preparation, and a discussion linked to the talk. The test is marked out of forty, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Speaking does not contribute to the overall qualification grade. Instead, it appears separately on the certificate as an endorsement from grade 1, the highest, to grade 5, the lowest.

Your written and listening performance determines the Cambridge IGCSE grade, awarded from A star to G.

Preparing the right kind of response

In comprehension, locate the information that answers the exact question and distinguish a speaker's or writer's opinion from fact. In writing, address the requested audience, purpose and content before checking language accuracy. Where listening and speaking are assessed, familiarity with the prescribed format matters as much as rehearsed vocabulary.

The assessment objectives are visible in the response itself: relevant knowledge, appropriate use of the stimulus or task, a clear method or explanation, and a conclusion where requested. The command word and mark allocation help show the depth required. An answer should respond to the actual question, not reproduce a memorised passage that only partly fits.

Timing and examination arrangements

Begin preparation with accurate, untimed work, then move towards the duration and conditions of your required component. Use mark allocations to guide pacing while allowing time to read instructions and check the response. Any practice pacing advice is study guidance, not a new Cambridge time rule.

Examinations are available in June and November, with an additional March series in India. Private candidates may enter, but only through a centre that can conduct and assess the speaking test and submit the required sample and documentation to Cambridge.

An approved examination centre confirms entries, available component options, deadlines and any practical or speaking arrangements. Preparation-course access does not itself constitute an examination entry. The speaking result is reported as a separate endorsement, graded 1-5. It is not included in the A*-G qualification grade; that is a different arrangement from 0511.

Key pointers: Know your required components, follow question choices precisely and practise the relevant response formats. **Next:** Open **Learning Resources** to see which materials support this preparation.