

Writing	Use of English	Listening	Speaking
Informal email (Part 2) p. 11	Multiple-choice cloze (Part 1) p. 9 Key word transformation (Part 4) p. 10	Multiple matching (Part 3) p. 9	Interview (Part 1) Listening to and answering questions p. 6
Essay (Part 1) p. 17	Word formation (Part 3) p. 13	Multiple choice (Part 4) p. 15	Collaborative task (Part 3) Agreeing and disagreeing p. 16
Article (Part 2) p. 25	Open cloze (Part 2) p. 24	Sentence completion (Part 2) p. 21	Long turn (Part 2) Comparing similarities and differences p. 22
Essay (Part 1) p. 31	Word formation (Part 3) p. 28	Multiple choice (Part 4) p. 29	Collaborative task (Part 3) Ranking p. 30
Review (Part 2) p. 39	Open cloze (Part 2) p. 35	Sentence completion (Part 2) p. 35	Long turn (Part 2) Comparing and giving a reaction to different photographs p. 38
Report (Part 2) p. 45	Multiple-choice cloze (Part 1) p. 44	Multiple choice (Part 1) p. 41	Discussion (Part 4) Giving opinions p. 40
Essay (Part 1) p. 52	Key word transformation (Part 4) p. 52	Multiple choice (Part 4) p. 51	Long turn (Part 2) Stating preferences and speculating p. 50
Letter of application (Part 2) p. 59	Word formation (Part 3) p. 58	Multiple matching (Part 3) p. 54	Collaborative task (Part 3) Agreeing and disagreeing p. 55
Essay (Part 1) p. 67	Word formation (Part 3) p. 64	Multiple choice (Part 4) p. 65	Discussion (Part 4) Compensation strategies p. 66
Article (Part 2) p. 73	Multiple-choice cloze (Part 1) p. 69	Multiple matching (Part 3) p. 68	Collaborative task (Part 3) Turn-taking and giving emphasis p. 72
Review (Part 2) p. 81	Word formation (Part 3) p. 79	Multiple choice (Part 1) p. 79	Long turn (Part 2) Responding to your partner's photographs p. 80
Report (Part 2) p. 87	Open cloze (Part 2) p. 86	Sentence completion (Part 2) p. 82	Discussion (Part 4) Assessment p. 83

Introduction to the Gold B2 First Exam Maximiser

The **Gold B2 First Exam Maximiser** is specially designed to maximise your chances of success in the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First examination.

The **Exam Maximiser** will help you prepare for the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam by offering you:

- further **practice and revision** of all the important vocabulary, grammar and skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) that you study in the Gold B2 First Coursebook.
- more **information about the kinds of questions** you will have to answer in the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam.
- guidance with the **strategies and techniques** you should use to tackle exam tasks.
- **exam-style exercises** so that you can practise using the techniques.
- regular **extra Use of English sections** to help you practise the language and strategies you have learnt.
- details of **Common errors** in the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam and how to avoid them.
- a complete **Practice exam** which you can use for preparation just before you sit the exam. This means that you will know exactly what to expect in each paper and that there are no unpleasant surprises.

How can I use the Gold B2 First Exam Maximiser?

The **Exam Maximiser** is very flexible and can be used by students in a variety of situations and in a variety of ways. Here are some typical situations:

1

You are doing a Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First course with other students, probably over an academic year. You are all planning to take the exam at the same time.

You are using the **Gold B2 First Coursebook** in class. Sometimes you will also do the related exercises or even a whole unit from the **Exam Maximiser** in class, though your teacher will ask you to do exercises from it at home as well. You will use the entire **Exam Maximiser** or you will use it selectively, depending on your needs and the time available.

2

You have already done a Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First course and you are now doing an intensive course to prepare for the exam.

Since you have already worked through the **Gold B2 First Coursebook** or perhaps another Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First coursebook, you will use the **Exam Maximiser** in class. This, together with the **Practice Tests Plus Cambridge First 2 New Edition (2014)**, will give you a concentrated and highly focused short exam course.

3

You have a very short time in which to prepare for the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam.

Your level of English is already nearing Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam standard, though you have not been following a coursebook. You now need exam skills. You will use the **Exam Maximiser** independently, without a coursebook, because you need practice in the exam tasks and how to approach them.

4

You are retaking the Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First exam as unfortunately you were not successful in your first attempt.

You may be retaking the exam because you were not sufficiently familiar with the exam requirements. You will not need to follow a coursebook, but you will use the **Exam Maximiser** to develop your exam techniques and build up your confidence.

5

You are preparing for the exam on your own.

Maybe you are not attending a Cambridge English Qualifications: B2 First class, but wish to take the exam and prepare for it independently. You will get practice and preparation by using the **Exam Maximiser** by itself. You can give yourself additional practice by using the **Practice Tests Plus Cambridge First 2 New Edition (2014)** just before taking the exam.

3 Things that matter

Vocabulary

money

► CB page 26

1 Choose the correct option in *italics* to complete the sentences.

- 1 It's a bad idea to lend money *to/for* a friend as it often causes problems.
- 2 It's nice when rich people give some money *away/down* to charity.
- 3 I'm always short *of/about* money at the end of the month.
- 4 It's important to try to live *within/about* your means and not borrow money from anyone.
- 5 I've just won a small amount of money and I feel as though I've got money *for/to* burn!
- 6 It's not easy to live *with/on* a tight budget but that's what students have to do.

2 For questions 1–6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

- 1 She's incredibly rich so she can buy anything she likes.

BURN

She's so she can buy anything she likes.

- 2 It's not a good idea to owe money to another person.

IN

It's not a good idea to to another person.

- 3 I can't buy you everything you want because I just don't have enough money to do that!

MADE

I'm not so I can't buy you everything you want.

- 4 I think that young people live better lives than their grandparents, financially.

STANDARD

I think that young people have than their grandparents.

- 5 He's so rich – I can't imagine how much money he earns every week.

FORTUNE

He must be because he earns so much money every week.

- 6 I haven't got much money at the moment, so I can't buy that new mobile phone yet.

TIGHT

Money at the moment, so I can't buy that new mobile phone yet.

Grammar

modal verbs

► CB page 72

- 1** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the modal verbs in the box. Make any other necessary changes. You can use the words more than once.

can could may might must

- The test wasn't so bad – it _____ a lot worse!
- I haven't seen her today so she _____ ill, though it's unlikely.
- Sue hasn't replied to my email which is not like her; she _____ received it.
- He _____ here because he sent me a text to tell me he'd arrived in the building.
- I didn't hear the postman knock – I _____ asleep.
- I drove to work but I can't find my car keys now. I _____ left them in my coat pocket – I often do!

- 2** Write sentences similar in meaning to sentences 1–6. Use one of the modal verbs in brackets to replace the underlined words and phrases.

- I don't know why I can't contact her – it's possible her mobile phone is switched off. (*must/could*)
- He has his own webpage. I'm pretty sure. (*may/must*)
- It's impossible for them to be eating outside because it's raining! (*can't/mustn't*)
- It's possible that John is arriving tonight. (*might/must*)
- It's impossible for us to leave because it's too early. (*couldn't/can't*)
- I'm not sure, but I think that the new student is from Germany. (*could/must*)

Speaking

Long turn (Part 2)

► CB page 73

- 1** **14** Listen to an interlocutor giving a candidate instructions about the two photographs. What does the interlocutor ask the candidate to do?

- Compare the photographs and say why people have chosen to celebrate their weddings in these situations.
- Compare the photographs and say which of these weddings would be more difficult to organise.

- 2** Decide whether phrases 1–10 express certainty (C) or probability (P).

- They seem/appear (to be) ...
- It looks like/as if (they are) ...
- It/They must be/have done ...
- It/They could/may be/have done ...
- It/They can't be/have done ...
- I imagine (that they are) ...
- I'm fairly/absolutely certain (they are) ...
- As far as I can see, (they are) ...
- I suppose (they are) ...
- They are definitely ...

- 3** **15** Listen to what a candidate said about the photos in Activity 1 and complete the text.

Well, the first couple have chosen to have a cycling wedding. (1) _____ they are on their way to the reception in the photograph and that the wedding ceremony itself (2) _____ already taken place. (3) _____ very happy about it, and the other members of the wedding party (4) _____ they are enjoying it too. The other couple have decided to have one of their wedding photos taken under water. (5) _____ have had the actual wedding there. (6) _____ of that.

The first couple (7) _____ cycling fanatics. (8) _____ really love the sport if they have chosen to cycle to the reception. The other couple (9) _____ just wanted an unusual wedding photograph for their wedding album. (10) _____ an underwater photograph would be rather difficult to take but it (11) _____ be fun. (12) _____ there's nobody else in the photo, so (13) _____ it was also taken after the wedding itself. (14) _____ been taken the day after. It wouldn't be much fun sitting through the reception in a wet wedding dress!



Multiple-choice cloze (Part 1)

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

A review of a collection of short stories

This collection of short stories has a wide range of interesting characters. The topics explored are not interrelated as some other collections are – (0) **A instead** each story covers a different aspect of personal experience.

The first story concerns the psychological (1) of a decision made by a woman in the heat of the moment. The reader is left to (2) his or her own mind about whether the woman should feel guilty, though it seemed to me that in this (3) she shouldn't.

The second story is based on the (4) of revenge. It follows the victim of a crime, and the way in which she (5) the situation. Although she may appear to be cruel at times, the reader feels genuine (6) for her.

Finally, there is an exciting account of what would happen if you (7) your best friend was leading a secret life as a spy. (8) it sounds unlikely, the writing is excellent and creates great suspense.

Overall, it's a collection to enjoy and re-read many times.

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 0 | A instead | B and | C despite | D though |
| 1 | A ends | B significances | C consequences | D summaries |
| 2 | A make over | B make out | C make up | D make for |
| 3 | A moment | B time | C place | D case |
| 4 | A movement | B argument | C sense | D theme |
| 5 | A gets up to | B deals with | C comes up to | D goes with |
| 6 | A sympathy | B identity | C sensitivity | D consideration |
| 7 | A found out | B looked for | C went through | D got from |
| 8 | A Since | B Although | C In spite of | D As |

Open cloze (Part 2)

For questions 9–16, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Not ideal – but good enough!

I fell into my first job (0) **by** chance. I'd graduated with a reasonable degree, but I was at (9) loss to know what to do next. I had no money, but (10) this I had unrealistic dreams of being able to travel the world. (11) the end what happened was a happy coincidence. An uncle of mine had set (12) a language school in the Caribbean, and needed someone to help him run the office. I jumped at the chance. (13) at the time I had no idea that it would turn out to be a real challenge. There were (14) many problems to deal with that I couldn't cope, (15) there were times when I felt overwhelmed. The advantages included good money and fantastic weather, but finally the pressure became too great so I quit. (16) , working in a school helped me realise that was what I really wanted to do, and now I'm a teacher!

Word formation (Part 3)

For questions 17–24, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. There is an example at the beginning (0).

What is a friend?

I'm sure we all think we're (0) supportive when friends need help, but are we fooling ourselves? To understand the true nature of (17) _____, we need to look at our attitude towards those we consider friends, and assess our (18) _____ towards them.

SUPPORT

FRIEND

BEHAVE

Some people think being a good friend means being a good (19) _____. While there is some truth in this, it's (20) _____ if you sit quietly and don't offer advice when it's needed. Of course you shouldn't be too forceful in the (21) _____ you provide, but making a gentle suggestion should fit the bill. It's important to be (22) _____ as well as practical.

**LISTEN
POINT**

ASSIST

SYMPATHY

When a friend is constantly complaining or creating a general atmosphere of (23) _____, it can be hard to tolerate their moods. It's easier to turn our backs on them and walk away. But that's when (24) _____ should kick in, and that means sticking with your friend through bad times as well as good.

HAPPY

LOYAL

It would be nice if we could live up to these criteria!

Key word transformation (Part 4)

For questions 25–30, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example:

0 I don't mind going to a party on my own if I know other people who will be there.

PROVIDED

I don't mind going to a party on my own provided that there will be other people there who I know.

25 In the event of heavy snow, we will cancel the game.

IT

If _____, we will cancel the game.

26 If you don't do any practice, you won't get any better.

UNLESS

You won't get any better _____ practice.

27 We should get to the airport on time if there isn't any heavy traffic on the motorway.

AS

We should get to the airport in time _____ no heavy traffic on the motorway.

28 You missed the plane because you didn't check in on time.

CAUGHT

If you had checked in on time, _____ the plane.

29 I want to go to Australia but I don't have enough money.

HAD

If I _____ go to Australia.

30 The man living next door always sings loudly every morning.

WHO

The man _____ always sings loudly every morning.

away from people there. **6C** – But now I try to get beneath the surface, listen to the sounds and soak in the atmosphere **7B** – If you push boundaries, you enrich yourself personally – and that's really what I think has been the key!

Vocabulary

- 1** 1 sightseeing tour 2 return ticket 3 camping trip
4 season ticket 5 Domestic flights 6 business trip
7 guided tour 8 package holiday
- 2** 1 away 2 up, in 3 off, up 4 behind 5 up

Grammar

- 1** and **2**
- 1 that (D) 2 which (ND) 3 whose (ND)
4 who (D) 5 when (D) 6 where (D)
7 which (ND) 8 who (ND) 9 that (D) 10 who's (D)

Use of English

- 1** 1 I am patient enough/I have enough patience – too impatient to ... becomes not ... patient enough
2 so much (that) – this gives the reason expressed in the first sentence as 'because ... I didn't want it to end'
3 too technical for me – this is the reason expressed in the first sentence as 'because ... it was so technical'
4 never seen such an – never gives the idea of 'ever'
5 could have met him – modal of possibility
6 cannot/can't be lying/is definitely not lying – modal of possibility (also possible: is definitely not lying)

Writing

- 1** C
- 2** Para 2: personal experience Para 3: languages
Para 4: own idea (information and cost)
- 3** Para 2: having a real experience, not being able to see everything Para 3: being able to learn, having fun
Para 4: finding facts, cost
- 4** Para 2: a, d Para 3: c, e Para 4: b, f
- 5** a to introduce the general topic b to give the writer's own opinion
- 6** 1 c but probably it's for a holiday 2 a 3 b
4 b In addition, being able to speak the language is a factor. 5 a 6 c 7 c 8 c
- 7** Students' own answers

UNIT 8

Listening

- 1** 1 E 2 A 3 D 4 C 5 B
- 2** 1D – more importantly, how much money I could earn! That's when I decided I'd become a personal trainer.
2C – But since I was young I've had this ambition to become a dancer 3F – So I've decided to leave music as a hobby and go into something with more of a future – so I'm going to study medicine, which gives me loads of opportunities for getting to the top. 4B – my parents ran their own business and they talked to me

about what they did. It seemed pretty interesting so it wasn't long before I realised I wanted to do the same.
5E – So what I'm thinking of doing is going into the travel business – and I'm realising just how much of the world I want to see!

Vocabulary

- 1** Across 2 occupation 4 exercise 6 agency
7 trainer 9 career
- Down 1 emotional 3 calculate 5 security
- 2** 1 up 2 around 3 out

Speaking

- 1** 1 colleagues 2 distraction 3 concentrate
4 desktop 5 self-disciplined 6 deadlines 7 desk
8 landline
- 2** Agreeing
- 1 I suppose so. 2 That's just what I was going to say.
3 That's true 4 I'd probably go along with that.
- Asking for an opinion
- 5 What about different types of communication?
6 What do you think?
- Expressing opinions
- 7 It goes without saying that
8 actually I'm not sure it's necessary
9 that's why it'd be important
10 you certainly need a fast internet connection
11 I guess for me it's

Grammar

- 1** 1 Carlos told us that he would meet us at the cinema.
2 Harry offered giving to give me a lift to the station.
3 Joe reminded me to call the hotel to cancel the reservation. ✓ 4 The boss accused me of using the internet at work. 5 We warned him to avoid the traffic jam in Port Street. ✓ 6 Sue suggested us to take taking/we take the bus because the trains were running late. 7 Juan explained that the computer system had crashed so emails weren't getting through. ✓ 8 Peter refused apologising to apologise to Mary.
- 2** 1 advised me not to 2 denied writing/having written
3 reminded me to send Bob 4 warned us not to be 5 recommended taking/that I take/should take
6 offered to help (me)

Reading

- 1** A
- 2** 1 A 2 B 3 A 4 B 5 B 6 A 7 B
- 3** 1C – It's generally not a good idea to let new customers know that you are working from home until you can show them that you are serious about what you do 2A – The negative points have to be when an unexpected caller insists on ringing the doorbell when I'm working 3A – I was putting in far too many

M: Well, if it takes much longer I'm going to see if I can change my ticket for another flight.

Extract 4

Hi, Jo – well, I got through the first semester but I'm not sure how! I knew it would be demanding – after all, I've never done anything like it before. I'm enjoying the challenge of the coursework and keeping up with the lectures, though some of it isn't exactly fascinating – I think it's the way the tutors deliver it rather than the subject itself, though. It's not the way I thought it would be, and it takes ages to get everything right – I don't mind putting in the hours but I know you're all a bit annoyed I can't go out as much as before! Next term should be better.

Extract 5

M: Do you like those game shows where people have to do extreme sports to win prizes? They're getting a bit silly, I think.

F: Some of the things they do are totally stupid – whoever dreams up the ideas must have a great sense of humour.

M: There was that one in the swimming pool with enormous red balls they had to run across – it wasn't people falling into the water that made me laugh but the fact that they bounced!

F: What must it cost to put on a game show? I can't imagine how television companies afford it.

M: I guess it's the adverts that pay for it – it probably doesn't cost the TV company much.

Extract 6

It was always my first love – my mother talks about how I'd sing endlessly even when I was very young. At school I hated music lessons, not 'cos of the subject but 'cos it was done in such a boring way! My teachers were pretty annoyed with me, because they realised I was wasting my talent. I went in for a music competition when I was sixteen, which I didn't win, but it got me in touch with like-minded musicians. Now I've joined the band I have to go along with their choice of music, though, which has to be what works commercially, not what I'd choose myself. Once I've really made it things will be very different!

Extract 7

People have enjoyed chewing natural products like bark and tree resin for thousands of years, and such products were often believed to have medicinal properties. Now it is produced commercially in a vast industry with worldwide sales measured in billions of pounds. Although it is so widely used and there are a huge range of different forms of the product, including sugar-free and medicated gum, we're increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of the way people dispose of their gum. The cost of removing it from the streets is enormous, and some wildlife can be seriously harmed by eating it.

Extract 8

I'm pretty fed up with everything I've been hearing over the last few minutes. The people you are talking to seem to be just ringing in to moan and OK, they're taking the chance to

say what they think – but they're all so critical. I know giving the opportunity to hear different opinions is the focus of a phone-in programme so if you changed the format it would become pretty pointless, but there seems to be little balance in what you're doing at the moment. I want to make the point that this kind of show should present a range of opinions, not just the negative views as it does now.

Practice test, Listening Part 2

Track 26

Hello, everybody – I'm Anne. I'm here to tell you about the work I do in the film industry, and give you some tips on how to get into it yourselves. I followed a popular route into working behind the scenes by becoming a runner – it's a very junior job but it can lead into any area of film making, from camera work to research to directing. My ultimate aim is to be a producer. It's a rather strange name for a job, and in fact it's a difficult job to define, but you may have noticed it on the credits that come up on the cinema screen at the end of a film. Being a runner involves helping out on the production of a film with what's often referred to as 'odd jobs' but I prefer to call general tasks. I suppose it comes from the idea of running from one job to another! What I actually do varies depending on the film and the location, but I often help members of the production team with things like unpacking the gear, setting up for the shoot and getting food and drinks for the crew – though strangely what I seemed to spend most of my time doing on my very first assignment was photocopying! A runner is really useful when things go wrong, because they can spend time away from the shoot sorting out problems while the film crew and the actors get on with their work. That's the part of the job I like best and no two days are the same. One day I was amused to be asked to go to another town to pick up some equipment that had actually been left behind! No matter how much planning has been done by the production team things can always change at the last minute. What I've found most useful apart from following the director was working closely with the technical crew. From the practical point of view that was brilliant. I learnt loads of really useful stuff, and lots of runners I know have gone on to become camera assistants.

There are certain qualities that make a good runner. Determination is quite important because it is so hard to break into the industry, and it's good if you are energetic, enthusiastic and patient – but it's most important to be what I call a good 'ideas' person. I also learnt never to be late on the first day of a film shoot – it's the worst thing you can do, so you soon learn to be organised. You also meet people from many different backgrounds, so it's vital to have good communication skills.

When you're looking for work, one strategy is to send your details to loads of companies, in the hope of getting a job interview. The biggest problem is that most vacancies aren't advertised in the newspapers – you find out about