

# Modifications to Cambridge ESOL Exams – *with effect from December 2008*

**C**ambridge has recently announced certain modifications to their FCE and CAE exams. Certain task types have been altered as well as the time allowed for each paper. The intention, Cambridge says, is to bring the main suite of exams (FCE, CAE and CPE) into line with each other and allow a more straightforward progression from FCE to CPE.

The overall length of CAE and FCE will be reduced by approximately one hour and the tests will focus on a wider range of skills and functions.

## First Certificate in English (FCE) NEW FORMAT

### Paper 1 – Reading

The Reading paper is now in three parts instead of four, with a total of 30 questions. The time has been reduced to one hour. The current Part 1 has been removed.

**Part 1:** Text with 8 four-option multiple choice questions.

**Part 2:** Gapped text with seven sentences removed. One extra sentence is given.

**Part 3:** Multiple-matching – 15 items. This may be one long text or up to six shorter texts.

### Paper 2 – Writing

The time has been reduced from 1 hour 30 minutes to one hour 20 minutes.

**Part 1:** The compulsory question is now a letter **or an e-mail**, to reflect the modern trend towards shorter communications. The number of words has been reduced slightly to 120 – 150.

**Part 2:** A review task is added. Set books are reduced from 5 to 2, and questions will be related to a specific book.

### Paper 2 – Use of English

This section now has only four parts. The error correction has been removed and other parts shortened. The time is reduced from 1 hour 15 minutes to 45 minutes. There are now 42 questions.

**Parts 1 & 2:** These remain the same.

**Part 3:** Derivatives/Word Formation with 10 gaps.

**Part 4:** Key Word transformations, reduced to 8.

**Paper 4 – Listening:** No change.

**Paper 5 – Speaking:** Questions will be included on the visuals page in Parts 2 and 3.