

Cambridge English Qualifications

A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exams changes

2020 Exam changes guide

- **Modified Reading and Writing:** shorter Reading (30 items instead of 55) and extended Writing (2 tasks instead of 1).
- **Modified Speaking:** part 2 has changed to include a collaborative task similar to the main suite to improve the reliability of enhanced certification.

Grades changes

Exam grades have changed to be in line with higher level Cambridge English Qualifications:

Pass with Distinction	→	A
Pass with Merit	→	B
Pass	→	C

2020 A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exams summary

	READING & WRITING	LISTENING	SPEAKING
Time	60 minutes	30 minutes	8-10 minutes per pair
Parts	5 Reading + 2 Writing	5	2
Questions	30 Reading + Writing	25	n/a
Summary of changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new tasks • 2 revised tasks • some parts are in a different order and some are shorter (current exam: 9 parts, 56 questions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new task • some parts are in a different order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new task

Recommended for A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exams

Gold Experience 2nd Edition

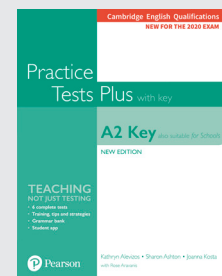
Recommended for A2 Key for Schools



Gold Experience 2nd Edition A2 Key for Schools provides engaging content that equips students to succeed in the A2 Key for Schools exam, and their upcoming young adult lives. The A1 Pre-Key for Schools starts them on that journey.

Practice Tests Plus

Recommended for A2 Key & A2 Key for Schools



Practice Tests Plus A2 Key provides realistic practice, comprehensive guidance and strategies for dealing with each paper, in line with the 2020 exam changes.

2020 A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exam specification

New tasks

Revised tasks

READING & WRITING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	No of questions
1	Multiple-choice	Overall understanding of notices, messages and emails.	Six discrete 3-option multiple-choice items – short emails, text messages, web messages and notices.	New task	6
2	Matching	Reading for specific information and detailed comprehension.	Three short texts with 7 multiple choice questions (A, B or C).	Revised task = Part 4 (current exam) but with 3 multiple-choice option A,B,C (<i>not Right, Wrong, Doesn't Say</i>)	7
3	Multiple-choice	Reading for detailed understanding and main ideas.	A longer text adapted from authentic newspaper/magazine followed by five 3-option multiple choice questions.	No change = Part 4 (current exam)	5
4	3-option multiple-choice gap-fill	Reading and identifying appropriate word. Main focus on vocabulary with maximum of 2 grammatical items.	A text with 6 gaps followed by six 3-option multiple-choice task.	No change = Part 5 (current exam), but shorter	6
5	Open gap-fill	Reading and identifying appropriate word, with focus on grammar.	A text with 6 open gaps. Add words to complete the text.	No change = Part 7 (current exam), but shorter	6
6	Writing – short message (25+ words)	Writing a communicative note or email.	A short input text or rubric to prompt a written response with three content points to communicate.	Revised task	1
7	Writing – short story (35+ words)	Writing connected text – a short story or narrative.	A 3-picture prompt which elicits a narrative or description.	New task	1

LISTENING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	No of questions
1	Multiple-choice short texts	Listening to identify specific information.	Five short dialogues and five discrete 3-option multiple-choice items with visuals.	No change = Part 1 (current exam)	5
2	Gap fill	Listening and writing down information.	Longer monologue and five gaps to fill with one or more words and numbers.	No change = Part 5 (current exam)	5
3	Multiple-choice long text	Listening to identify specific information, feelings, opinions.	Longer dialogue. Five gaps to fill with one or more words or numbers.	No change = Part 3 (current exam)	5
4	Multiple choice	Listening to identify the main idea/message/gist/topic/point.	Short informal or neutral monologues or dialogues. Five discrete 3-option multiple-choice items with written options.	New task	5
5	Matching	Listening to identify specific information.	Longer informal dialogue. Five items and eight options.	No change = Part 2 (current exam)	5

SPEAKING

Part	Task	Task focus	Format	What changed?	Time
1	Introduction	Focus on international and social language.	Candidates give personal information about their daily life, interests, likes, followed by a longer "Tell me something about..." question.	No change = Part 1 (current exam)	3 - 4 minutes
2	Collaborative task	Organising a larger unit of discourse; comparing, describing, expressing opinions.	A discussion between candidates based on visual prompts covering an appropriate topic, i.e. holidays. The discussion is followed by 2 questions asked by an examiner to each candidate.	New task	5 - 6 minutes