



Year 9 Syllabus in a nutshell

EAL (FCE/First for Schools)





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Overview

Pupils in Year 9 have four lessons per week and continue to develop their skills across the four cornerstones of English literacy: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. The focus is on building these skills to (CEFR) B2 level; this provides suitable preparation for the IGCSE ESL course whilst also helping students develop both interpersonal language skills, and academic language and structures that will benefit them across the curriculum. At the end of the year, all students will take the B2 First for Schools examination, which is part of the UCLES English Second Language suite of examinations. This examination provides a fully accredited and externally endorsed certificate of results, which identifies the student's English language proficiency across the four aforementioned skills.

Units & Language

The one-year course covers the following 14 units:

- ◆ Lifestyle - Unit 1
- ◆ High Energy - Unit 2
- ◆ A Change for the Better? - Unit 3
- ◆ A Good Story - Unit 4
- ◆ Doing What You Have to Do - Unit 5
- ◆ Relative Relationships - Unit 6
- ◆ Value for Money - Unit 7
- ◆ Up and Away - Unit 8
- ◆ Mystery & Imagination - Unit 9
- ◆ Nothing but the Truth - Unit 10
- ◆ What on earth's going on? - Unit 11
- ◆ Looking after Yourself - Unit 12
- ◆ Animal Magic - Unit 13
- ◆ Mind your Language- Unit 14

Together, these units promote knowledge, understanding and application of the following grammar elements and constructions:

- Parts of speech
- Pronouns/Relative pronouns
- Articles/Quantifiers
- Modal/Auxiliary Verbs
- Conjunctions
- Prepositions
- Reported & Direct Speech
- Passive vs Active forms
- Verb tenses
- Punctuation
- Phrasal Verbs
- Gerunds



- Countable/Uncountable Nouns

Students are advised to revise all of these in preparation for the examination and in order to enhance their English language skills across the curriculum.

Exam format

- ◆ Exam length: About 3.5 hours
- ◆ CEFR level: B2
- ◆ Test format: Computer or paper-based
- ◆ No. of papers: 4

The updated B2 First for Schools exam (for exam sessions from January 2015) is made up of four papers developed to test students' English language skills. You can see exactly what's in each paper below.

Paper	Content	Purpose
Reading and Use of English (1 hour 15 minutes)	7 parts/52 questions	<p>Students need to be able to understand a range of texts, including how they are organised and the opinions and attitudes expressed in them. The texts will be from sources familiar to school-aged learners, such as magazines, articles, fiction and advertisements, but targeted at the interests of students.</p> <p>Students' use of English will be tested by tasks which show how well they can control their grammar and vocabulary.</p>
Writing (1 hour 20 minutes) See sample paper	2 parts	<p>Students are required to produce two pieces of writing. The first piece is compulsory and will be an essay of 140–190 words. For the second, they can choose from an article, email/letter, essay, review or story of 140–190 words.</p>



Paper	Content	Purpose
Listening (about 40 minutes) See sample paper	4 parts/30 questions	Requires being able to follow and understand a range of familiar spoken materials, such as news programmes, public announcements and other sources, but targeted at the interests of school-aged learners.
Speaking (14 minutes per pair of candidates) See sample paper	4 parts	A face to face test taken with one or two other candidates and an examiner. Students have to show how well they can produce spontaneous spoken language, talking with either the examiner, the other candidate, or by themselves.

What's in the Reading and Use of English paper?

The B2 First for Schools Reading and Use of English paper is in seven parts and has a mix of text types and questions.

For Parts 1 to 4, students read a range of texts and do grammar and vocabulary tasks.

For Parts 5 to 7, students read a series of texts and answer questions that test reading ability and show that they can deal with a variety of different types of texts.

Time allowed:	1 hour 15 minutes
Number of parts:	7
Number of questions:	52
Marks:	40% of total
Lengths of texts:	2,200–2,500 words to read in total.



Texts may be from:

Newspaper and magazine articles, reports, fiction, advertisements, letters, messages, informational material (e.g. brochures, guides, manuals, etc.).

Part 1 (Multiple-choice cloze)

What's in Part 1?

A text in which there are some missing words or phrases (gaps). After the text there are four possible answers for each gap and students have to choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

What do students have to practise?

Vocabulary – words with similar meanings, collocations, linking phrases, phrasal verbs, etc.

How many questions are there?

8

How many marks are there?

1 mark for each correct answer.

Part 2 (Open cloze)

What's in Part 2?

There are some missing words (gaps). Students have to think of the correct word for each gap.

What do students have to practise?

Grammar and vocabulary.

How many questions are there?

8

How many marks are there?

1 mark for each correct answer.

Part 3 (Word formation)

What's in Part 3?

A text containing eight gaps. Each gap represents a word. At the end of the line



	is a 'prompt' word which the student has to change in some way to make the correct missing word and complete the sentence correctly.
What do students have to practise?	Vocabulary – word-building: the different words which the student can make from a 'base' word, e.g. 'compete' becomes 'competition', 'competitor', 'competitive', 'competitively' or 'uncompetitive'.
How many questions are there?	8
How many marks are there?	1 mark for each correct answer.

Part 4 (Key word transformations)

What's in Part 4?	A sentence followed by a key word and a second sentence which has a gap in it. Students have to use the key word to complete the second sentence so that it is similar in meaning to the first sentence.
What do students have to practise?	Grammar and vocabulary – rewriting sentences with different words so that they mean the same thing.
How many questions are there?	6
How many marks are there?	Up to 2 marks for each correct answer.

Part 5 (Multiple choice)

What's in Part 5?	A text with some multiple-choice questions. Each question has four options (A, B, C or D), and students have to decide which is the correct answer.
What do students have to practise?	How to understand the details of a text, including opinions and attitudes.



How many questions are there?	6
How many marks are there?	2 marks for each correct answer.

Part 6 (Gapped text)

What's in Part 6?	A text with some empty spaces (gaps). After the text there are some sentences taken from the text. Students have to choose the correct sentence for each gap.
What do students have to practise?	How to understand the structure and follow the development of a text.
How many questions are there?	6
How many marks are there?	2 marks for each correct answer.

Part 7 (Multiple matching)

What's in Part 7?	A series of questions and a long text or several short texts to read. For each question, students have to decide which text or part of the text mentions this.
What do students have to practise?	How to find specific information in a text or texts.
How many questions are there?	10
How many marks are there?	1 mark for each correct answer.

In January 2015, Cambridge English Scale scores replaced the candidate profile and standardised scores used for pre-2015 results. All candidates (pre- and post-2015) receive a Statement of Results, with those scoring high enough also receiving a certificate.



Grading/Results

From 2015, the Statement of Results and the Certificate have the following information about the candidate's performance:

- A score on the Cambridge English Scale for each skill (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and for Use of English
- A score on the Cambridge English Scale for the overall exam
- A grade (A, B, C, Level B1) for the overall exam
- A CEFR level for the overall exam.

The certificate also contains the UK National Qualifications Framework (NQF) level.

The candidate's overall score is averaged from the individual scores for each skill (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking) and for the use of English.

B2 First is targeted at CEFR Level B2, but also provides reliable assessment at the level above B2 (Level C1) and the level below (B1). The following scores are used to report results:

Grade	Cambridge English Scale Score (140–190)	CEFR Level
A	180–190	C1
B	173–179	B2
C	160–172	B2
CEFR Level B1	140–159	B1

**** Scores between 122 and 139 are also reported on the Statement of Results but candidates will not receive a certificate.*