

## 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	→	<b>A</b>
Pass with Merit	→	<b>B</b>
Pass	→	<b>C</b>

### 2020 A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exams summary

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

### Recommended for A2 Key and A2 Key for Schools exams

#### Gold Experience 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

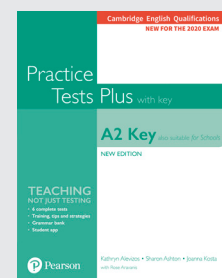
Recommended for A2 Key for Schools



**Gold Experience 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.	<b>New task</b>	6
2	Matching	Reading for specific information and detailed comprehension.	Three short texts with 7 multiple choice questions (A, B or C).	<b>Revised task</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>Revised task</b>	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.	<b>New task</b>	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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>New task</b>	5
5	Matching	Listening to identify specific information.	Longer informal dialogue. Five items and eight options.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>No change</b> = 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.	<b>New task</b>	5 - 6 minutes