
CAMBRIDGE BENCHMARKING TEST

TEST INFORMATION

LISTENING

TEST OVERVIEW

The Listening Test is taken using a computer. It is an adaptive test, so there is not a fixed number of questions, and candidates will not all see the same questions. Each question helps the computer to understand the candidate's level better. The test finishes when the candidate has answered enough questions to identify their level accurately. For this reason, candidates might finish the test at different times. The candidates listen to each task audio twice.

The Listening Test assesses candidates across all levels from below A1 to C1.

The table below gives the test details for each age group.

Cambridge Benchmarking Listening Test (11-13)

Candidates listen to a range of scripts and answer a variety of questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approximately 25 minutes▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'B2 or above'
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Cambridge Benchmarking Listening Test (14-17)

Candidates listen to a range of scripts and answer a variety of questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Approximately 35 minutes▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'C1 or above'
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Cambridge Benchmarking Listening Test (adult)

Candidates listen to a range of scripts and answer a variety of questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪▪ Approximately 35 minutes▪ Reporting from 'Below A1' to 'C1 or above'
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TEST CONTENT

A variety of Listening questions assess the different levels. The Sample Listening Test shows all the possible question types. However, candidates might not see all the question types in their Listening Test. (The Sample Listening Test is not adaptive.)

The table below gives details of each question type.

Multiple choice (1 question)

Candidates listen to a short monologue or dialogue and answer one multiple-choice question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1 question▪ 3 options for the question
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Multiple choice (2 questions)

Candidates listen to a monologue or dialogue and answer two multiple-choice questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2 questions▪ 3 options for the question
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Multiple choice (5 questions)

- Candidates listen to a discussion or interview with two or three speakers and answer five multiple-choice questions.
- 5 questions
 - 3 or 4 options for the question
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SAMPLE TEST

The Sample Test can be found here:

[Listening Sample test](#)

(If you close the test, it will reopen at the same place. If you have any issues reopening the test once it has been finished, clear the computer's cache and try again.)

LISTENING TEST ADVICE FOR CANDIDATES

Before the Listening Test

- Review the Sample Test so you understand the different question types and how to move through the test.

During the Listening Test

- At the start of the test use the sound check page to make sure your headphones are working.
- Remember, the Benchmarking Listening Test (but not the Sample Test) is adaptive. Some questions might be easy and some will be more difficult. The computer chooses the questions based on your previous answers.
- Read the questions and look at the options before you listen.
- You will listen to each recording twice
- You can change your answer to any question on the same screen, but you cannot go back to a previous screen.
- Click on the forward arrow to move to the next screen.
- To see you how much of the test you have completed, look at the progress bar on screen.