

2009 CEFR Changes and new Practice Papers

Changes to the International ESOL (8984) Exam Papers

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The exciting CEFR linking project has reached a major milestone; we have completed linking four levels and will be introducing new 2009 versions in October. To prepare for this new 2009 CEFR linked version Practice Papers are now available for download from our website: www.cityandguilds.com/ieq

New 2009 Practice Papers are available for download from the IEQ website. There are six new Practice Papers available, one for each level.

Of the six new 2009 Practice Papers, four follow a new format.

B1, B2, C1 & C2 are in a new format, recognisable by the changed appearance in the cover sheet.

These changes have been made due to our ongoing improvements of the IEQ suite, in particular our exciting CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) linking project. This project was undertaken by a dedicated and enthusiastic team. It was led by Professor Barry O'Sullivan of Roehampton University, who guided City & Guilds staff and a professional and prestigious panel of experts from across Europe.

We have updated and benchmarked to the CEFR the following levels

- **Achiever (B1 Threshold)**
- **Communicator (B2 Vantage)**
- **Expert (C1 EOP)**
- **Mastery (C2 Mastery)**

The benchmarking has led to the introduction of new item types, revised word lengths and number of times a question is heard. The changes were made to ensure the items and the papers are correctly assessing whether a candidate is at level.

Through the course of the project we have collated empirical evidence of a demonstrable link between these qualifications and the CEFR. The qualitative and quantitative data have been analysed by Professor O'Sullivan and will be presented in a series of detailed reports which will be available for download from the IEQ website in October 2009.

With a demonstrable link between our tests and the CEFR centres and candidates can be confident of the validity of the tests.

Apart from the tests and the assessment materials, City & Guilds have reviewed their test paper production and vetting processes. The processes have been rigorously checked to ensure they support a reliable production of quality language tests. The work done here is to maintain good quality assurance.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is true and correct at time of going to press. However, City & Guilds products and services are subject to continuous development and improvement and the right is reserved to change Products and services from time to time. City & Guilds cannot accept liability for loss or damage arising from the use of information in this publication. City & Guilds is a registered charity established to promote education and training.

Product update

The table below shows the changes which have been made to the papers and tasks.

	Listening 1	Listening 2	Listening 3	Listening 4	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3	Reading 4
B1	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	no
B2	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
C1	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
C2	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no

changed	revised	no changed
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No changes were made to any of the writing tasks.

These changes will be introduced to the live papers from October 2009.

As part of our CEFR benchmarking project, we are currently working on our Preliminary (A1 Breakthrough) and Access (A2 Waystage) level exam papers. The papers have undergone revision and following changes have been made:

	Listening 1	Listening 2	Listening 3	Listening 4	Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3	Reading 4	Writing 1	Writing 2	Writing 3	Writing 4
A1	no	no	no	yes	no	no	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes
A2	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	no	no

changed	revised	no changed
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These changes will be introduced to the live papers from January 2010.

Reports detailing these changes and the project activities will be available to download from the website from January 2010.

Further information

For further information please contact your local City & Guilds office