

Frequently Asked Questions

Here you can find answers to questions candidates often ask about the digital exams.



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General questions about digital exams

What are the benefits of taking a digital exam?

One of the major benefits of the digital exams are that results are received much faster, in just 5-10 working days compared with 4-6 weeks for paper-based exams. When taking the exam itself, other benefits include:

- You can do the listening tests with headphones, so the sound quality is good.
- You can adjust the volume of the audio.
- You can adjust the size and colour of the font.
- You can easily edit your writing and use the word count to see how many words you've written.
- You don't need to transfer your answers to a separate answer sheet.

Can I bring a pen and paper to the exam to take notes?

You can bring a pen or pencil to take notes. The paper will be provided by the exam centre. Leave the paper on the table once the exam is finished.

If I can't answer a question, can I come back to it again later?

Yes, you can check and change your answers at any time before the end of the test.

How will I know which questions I haven't answered yet?

All questions have a grey line above the question number. The line will change to black when it has been answered. The unanswered questions will remain grey.



How do I know how much time I have left?

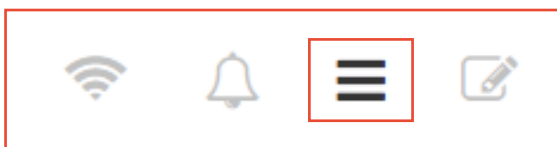
There is a timer at the top of the screen. When there are 5 minutes remaining, the time switches from showing only full minutes to showing minutes and seconds. When there is 1 minute remaining, the background colour changes and the text turns red.

Will I be able to do the exam from home?

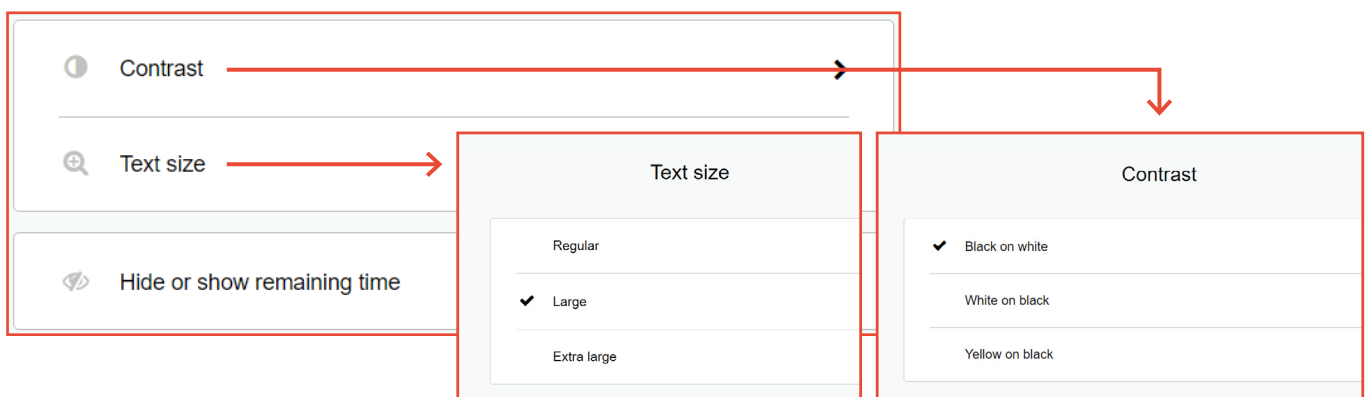
No, you will take the exam in an exam centre, at your school, or at another location, depending on local arrangements. Check with your teacher or exam centre.

Can I adjust the contrast and the text size?

Yes, you can. Click on Settings button which shows as three lines at the top of the screen on the right.



Select the contrast and text size that is right for you.



Is there a sample test for the digital exams?

Yes, you can find sample tests for the digital exams on our website. **Choose the exam** you want to take, and you will find an example of a digital test. Make sure you also watch the tutorial for the exam you are taking.

What if there are technical issues on the day of the exam?

Technical issues are not common and, if there are any, your exam centre can usually resolve them quickly. They will advise you on what you need to do.

What if my computer has technical issues during the exam?

In the case of technical issues during the exam (e.g. your computer does not respond, or the audio is not playing), please raise your hand immediately.

Can I use the internet to look up words or answers?

No, you will not have access to the internet from the test computer.

Common questions about the digital Reading test

How can I underline or highlight text?

Select the text you want to highlight, right click and choose “Highlight”.

Genealogy is a branch of history. It concerns family history, 1 than the national or world history studied at school. It doesn't merely involve drawing a family tree, however – tracing your family history can also 2 in learning about your roots and your identity. The internet enables millions of people worldwide to 3 information about their family history, without great 4 .

To remove the highlighting, click again and choose “Delete highlight”.

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How can I make notes?

Select the passage you would like to make notes about, right click and choose “Note”. This will automatically highlight the passage too. You can copy and paste from your electronic notes to the answers.

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Notes ×

Part 2 Book reviews wanted

Start typing your note

Delete

Can I see all the text and questions at the same time?

You may have to move the scroll bar to read the whole text and see all the questions.

Read the extract from a novel below. For each question, choose the correct answer.

We live on the island of Hale. It's about four kilometres long and two kilometres wide at its broadest point, and it's joined to the mainland by a causeway called the Stand - a narrow road built across the mouth of the river which separates us from the rest of the country. Most of the time you wouldn't know we're on an island because the river mouth between us and the mainland is just a vast stretch of tall grasses and brown mud. But when there's a high tide and the water rises a half a metre or so above the road and nothing can pass until the tide goes out again a few hours later, then you know it's an island.

We were on our way back from the mainland. My older brother, Dominic, had just finished his first year at university in a town 150 km away. Dominic's train was due in at five and he'd asked for a lift back from the station. Now, Dad normally hates being disturbed when he's writing (which is just about all the time), and he also hates having to go anywhere, but despite the typical sighs and moans – why can't he get a taxi? what's wrong with the bus? – I could tell by the sparkle in his eyes that he was really looking forward to seeing Dominic.

So, anyway, Dad and I had driven to the mainland and picked up Dominic from the station. He had been talking non-stop from the moment he'd slung his rucksack in the boot and got in the car. University this, university that, writers, books, parties, people, money, gigs... And when I say talking, I don't mean talking as in having a conversation, I mean talking as in jabbering like a mad thing. I didn't like it – the way he spoke and waved his hands around as if he was some kind of intellectual or something. It was embarrassing. It made me feel uncomfortable – that kind of discomfort you feel when someone you like, someone close to you, suddenly starts acting like a complete idiot. And I didn't like the way he was ignoring me, either. For all the attention I was getting I might as well not have been there. I felt a stranger in my own car.

As we approached the island on that Friday afternoon, the tide was low and the Stand welcomed us home, stretched out before us, clear and dry, beautifully hazy in the heat – a raised strip of grey concrete bound by white railings and a low footpath on either side, with rough cobbled banks leading down to the water. Beyond the railings, the water was glinting with that wonderful silver light we sometimes get here in the late afternoon which lazes through to the early evening.

We were about halfway across when I saw the boy. My first thought was how odd it was to see someone walking on the Stand. You don't often see people walking around here. Between Hale and Moulton (the nearest town about thirty kilometres away on the mainland), there's nothing but small cottages, farmland, heathland and a couple of hills. So islanders don't walk because of that. If they're going to Moulton they tend to take the bus. So the only pedestrians you're likely to see around here are walkers or bird-watchers. But even from a distance I could tell that the figure ahead didn't fit into either of these categories. I wasn't sure

31 In the first paragraph, what is Caitlin's main point about the island?

☐ It can be dangerous to try to cross from the mainland.

☐ It is much smaller than it looks from the mainland.

☐ It is only completely cut off at certain times.

☐ It can be a difficult place for people to live in.

32 What does Caitlin suggest about her father?

☐ His writing prevents him from doing things he wants to with his family.

☐ His initial reaction to his son's request is different from usual.

☐ His true feelings are easily hidden from his daughter.

☐ His son's arrival is one event he will take time off for.

33 Caitlin emphasises her feelings of discomfort because she

☐ is embarrassed that she doesn't understand what her brother is talking about.

☐ feels confused about why she can't relate to her brother any more.

☐ is upset by the unexpected change in her brother's behaviour.

Common questions about the digital Writing test

Can I plan and make notes?

Yes, you will be given paper that you can use to plan and make notes for the Writing test. Please make sure to leave all the paper in the exam room once the exam has finished.

Will the words I type be counted automatically?

Yes, the words are counted automatically as you're typing.

Hello Sandy,

Great to hear from you. I'm really looking forward to staying with you for the week!

Words: 18

Can I edit my writing?

Yes, you can copy and paste, delete and edit what you write at any time during the Writing test.

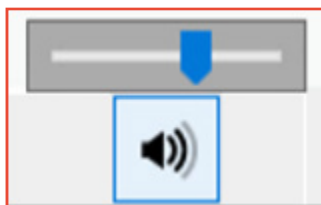
Is there a spell-checker?

No. It is important to proofread your answers before the end of the test.

Common questions about the digital Listening test

Can I adjust the volume of the audio?

Yes, you can change the volume by using the bar in the bottom right at any time during the test.



Can I pause the listening?

No, you cannot pause the listening. You will hear each track twice.

Do I have any time to review my answers before the end of the test?

Yes, you have two minutes to check your answers before the test ends.

Common questions about the Speaking test

How is the Speaking test done in the digital test?

The Speaking test is the same as in the paper-based exam. You take it together with one or two other candidates. There are two examiners. One of the examiners talks to you and the other examiner listens.

Find out more at
cambridge.org/english

We believe that English can unlock a lifetime of experiences and, together with teachers and our partners, we help people to learn and confidently prove their skills to the world.

Where your world grows