



# A2 KEY AND B1 PRELIMINARY 2020: IDEAS AND STRATEGIES FOR THE CLASSROOM

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## Aims

- Why change the exams?
- Summary of the changes
- Exam strategies and activities
- Questions



# Why change the exams?





## Why change the exams?

- To keep them **relevant** to the needs of learners
- To incorporate **evolving approaches** to assessment and learning
- To address **feedback** from stakeholders (teachers, learners, parents, exam centres, etc.)
- To **align** A2 Key/Key for Schools more closely with B1 Preliminary/Preliminary for Schools and higher levels exams.





# A2 Key and B1 Preliminary Reading and Writing





## A2 Key / Key for Schools Reading & Writing

	Current exam	2020 Exam
<b>A2 Key</b>	9 parts	7 parts
	56 questions	32 questions
	1 hour 10 mins	1 hour

### Part What's changed

- 1 Revised multiple-choice task: understanding 6 short messages
- 4 Revised multiple-choice gap fill text: Lexico-grammatical focus (current Parts 2 and 5 combined)
- 7 New story task: write a story based on 3 pictures



## B1 Preliminary/ Preliminary for Schools Reading & Writing

*Reading now a separate paper from Writing – 45 minutes each*

	Current exam	2020 Exam
<b>B1 Preliminary</b>	Reading 5 parts Writing 3 parts	Reading 6 parts Writing 2 parts
	Reading 35 questions Writing 7 questions	Reading 32 questions Writing 2 questions
	1 hour 30 mins	45 minutes each paper

### Part What's changed

- 4 New gapped text: choose correct sentence to put in gaps understanding gist and text structure
- 6 New open cloze: read a text and write words in the gaps – detailed understanding



## A2 Key / Key for schools Reading & Writing Revised Part 1

### Revised Part 1

For these questions, choose the correct answer.

1

#### **Women's bicycle for sale**

Small size

11 years old - needs new tyres

£90

Phone Debbie

- 0794587454



- A The bicycle that's for sale was built for a child.
- B Some parts of the bicycle must be changed.
- C Debbie is selling the bike because she's too big for it now.





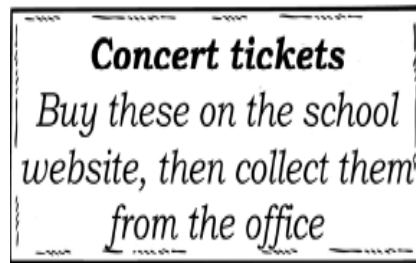
## Reading Part 1 Strategies

- notices
- signs
- instructions
- emails
- messages
- notes
- postcards



### What should Andy do?

- A invite some friends to play football
- B tell Jake if he can join him later
- C show Tom where Woodside School is



- A Pay for tickets online before picking them up at school.
- B Check the website for information about when tickets will be available.
- C Let the office know soon if you are planning to buy tickets



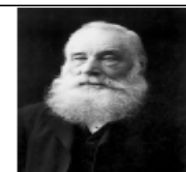
## A2 Key / Key for schools Reading & Writing Revised Part 4

### Part 4

Questions 19 – 24

For these questions, choose the correct answer for each gap.

#### William Perkin



William Perkin was born in London in 1838. As a child he had many hobbies, including model making and photography. But it was the (19) ..... of chemistry that really interested him. At the age of 15, he went to college to study it. While he was there, he was (20) ..... to make a medicine from coal. This didn't go well, but when he was working on the problem, he found a cheap (21) ..... to make the kind of purple dye that (22) ..... It was an expensive dye that came in different colours. William knew he could make a business out of his new colour. Helped by his father and brother, he (23) ..... the first factory to make the colour. It sold well and soon other factories (24) ..... very popular in England and the rest of the world.

- Read through the whole text
- Focus on the gaps
- Read what is written before and after the gaps
- Go through the options one by one and think about grammar, collocation and differences in meaning of the options

- There is only one correct answer
- Think about why the other two options are not plausible
- Read through the text with the gaps completed.

19	A	class	B	subject	C	course
20	A	thinking	B	trying	C	deciding
21	A	way	B	path	C	plan
22	A	day	B	time	C	hour
23	A	brought	B	turned	C	opened
24	A	began	B	arrived	C	became



# B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for Schools Reading New Part 4

## Questions 1 – 5

You are going to read an article about a famous bicycle race.

Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from sentences A – H the one which fills each gap (1 – 5). There are three extra sentences which you do not need to use.

### The world's most famous bicycle race

The Tour de France is the biggest event in the worldwide cycling calendar. It is a bicycle race lasting approximately three weeks which usually covers more than 3,500 km in total. The route around France includes steep climbs on difficult mountain roads and is divided into daily sections known as stages. The final champion is the cyclist who has ridden the whole route in the least time (1) ..... And each day, the cyclist who has taken the shortest time to get to that point in the Tour de France is allowed to wear a special yellow top.

The first Tour de France was held in 1903 as a publicity event for a newspaper. The early races were extremely challenging, and some individual stages were 400 km or more in length. (2) ..... The roads, particularly in the mountains, were often in poor condition. There were no support teams following the cyclists in cars as there are today, and their bikes often broke down. (3) .....

The Tour de France has taken place nearly every year since 1903. Thousands of people now stand at the roadsides to watch the cyclists go past and people come from all over the world to watch one or several stages. (4) ..... This is often the only way to make sure they have the best possible view of the race. The Tour de France always finishes in the centre of France's capital, Paris. (5) ..... The Tour begins in different cities, and can even include visits to nearby countries.

- A On the most important days, many of them camp out along the route.
- B That's why people want to know all about famous international cyclists.
- C But there is also a winner of every individual stage.
- D It was a long way so they asked the reporters for help.
- E They were required to fix them themselves if this happened.
- F However, the exact route changes every year.
- G The winner of that stage was allowed to do this the following day.
- H In order to complete these distances, many competitors had to carry on until the middle of the night.



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## B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for Schools Reading New Part 4

### The world's most famous bicycle race

The Tour de France is the biggest event in the worldwide cycling calendar. **It** is a bicycle race lasting approximately three weeks **which** usually covers more than 3,500 km in total.

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## B1 Preliminary for Schools Reading Part 6

What kinds of language are tested?

### **Our new skatepark!** by Jack Fletcher

Is there a great skatepark in your town? We've now got the (27) ..... fantastic skatepark ever, and it's all because of my friends and me!

Our old skatepark was full of broken equipment, so none of us ever went there. But we all agreed that (28) ..... we had a better skatepark in our town, we'd use it. And teenagers might come (29) ..... other towns to join us, too.

So I set up an online questionnaire to find out (30) ..... local people wanted. I asked them whether we should improve our old skatepark (31) ..... build a completely new one. People voted to build a new one.

Then we held some events to get money to pay for it. In the end we collected half the cost, and the local council paid the rest. It (32) ..... finally finished last month. So come and try it – you'll have a great time!



## A2 Key / Key for schools Listening – what's changed

	Current exam	2020 Exam
<b>A2 Key</b>	Listening 5 parts	Listening 5 parts
	Approx. 30 mins including transfer time	Approx. 30 mins including transfer time

Some parts are in a different order so that the tasks gradually increase in complexity.

### Part What's changed

- 4 New multiple-choice task: listen to 5 short texts for gist understanding (main idea / message)



## B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for schools Listening – what's changed

	Current exam	2020 Exam
<b>B1 Preliminary</b>	Listening 4 parts	Listening 4 parts
	Approx. 35 mins including transfer time	Approx. 35 mins including transfer time

Some parts are in a different order so that the tasks gradually get more complex as students progress through the test.

### **Part**    **What's changed**

**2**        New multiple-choice task: listen to 6 short dialogues for understanding gist (focus on attitudes and opinions)



## A2 Key and B1 Preliminary Listening: Multiple-choice tasks

- 16** You will hear a woman talking to her friend about why she's bought a motorbike. Why did she buy it?
- A** It's fast.
  - B** It was cheap.
  - C** It'll be easy to repair.
- 12** You will hear two friends talking about a football match. They agree that their team lost because
- A** the players weren't confident enough.
  - B** they were missing some key players.
  - C** the players didn't do the right training.

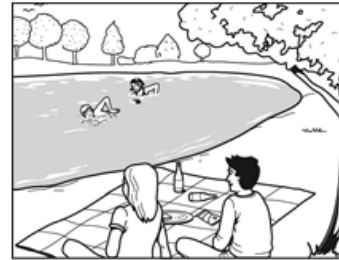
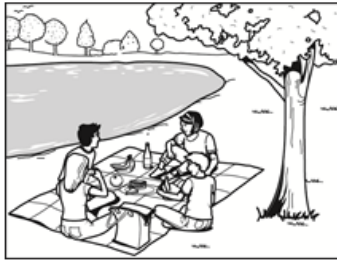




## A2 Key / Key for schools Reading & Writing New Part 7

- A2** Can tell a simple story (e.g. about events on a holiday or about life in the distant future).  
Can write very short, basic descriptions of events, past activities and personal experiences.

Look at the three pictures.  
Write the story shown in the pictures.  
Write **35 words** or more.



Write the story on your answer sheet.



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## Preparing for writing

Choose a noun, verb, adverb and adjective from the word list

drums

repair

afterwards

surprised



## B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for schools Writing – what's changed

*Writing now a separate paper from Reading. Now 2 parts in 45 minutes.*

### Part What's changed

- 1 New task: write an email in response to information given
- 2 Write an article or story on a given topic



# B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for Schools Writing – New Part 1

## Preliminary for Schools

### Question 1

Read this email from your English teacher Mrs Lake and the notes you have made.

**EMAIL**

From: Mrs Lake

Subject: End of year party

Dear Class,

I'd like our class to have a party to celebrate the end of the school year. *Great!*

We could either have a party in the classroom or we could go to the park. Which would you prefer to do? *Explain*

What sort of activities or games should we do during the party? *Suggest ...*

What food do you think we should have at the party? *Tell Mrs Lake*

Reply soon!

Anna Lake

Write your email to Mrs Lake using all the notes.

# The writing process

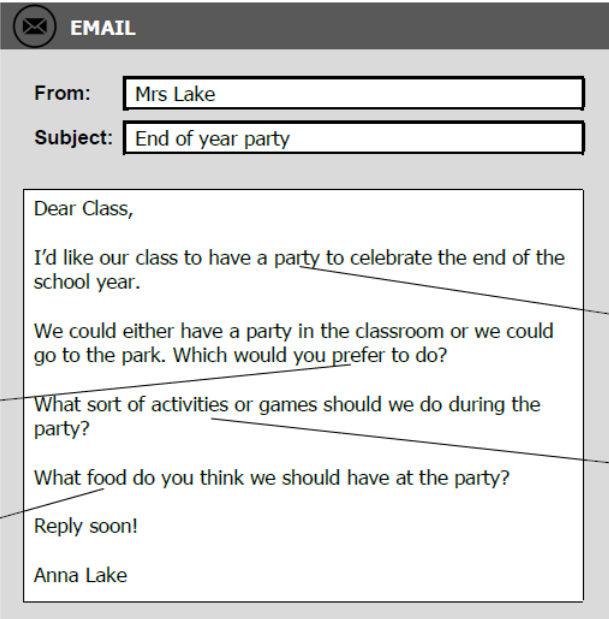
## B1 Preliminary Writing Part 1

- What functional responses are required in this task?
- What conventions does the writer need to know for writing an email?
- What problems could students have in writing well for a task like this?

You **must** answer this question.  
Write your answer in about **100 words** on the answer sheet.

### Question 1

Read this email from your English teacher Mrs Lake and the notes you have made.



**EMAIL**

**From:** Mrs Lake

**Subject:** End of year party

Dear Class,

I'd like our class to have a party to celebrate the end of the school year.

We could either have a party in the classroom or we could go to the park. Which would you prefer to do?

What sort of activities or games should we do during the party?

What food do you think we should have at the party?

Reply soon!

Anna Lake

*Great!*

*Explain*

*Suggest...*

*Tell Mrs Lake*

Write your **email** to Mrs Lake using **all the notes**.



## B1 Preliminary / Preliminary for Schools Writing – Part 2

ARTICLE

OR

STORY

You see this announcement in your school English-language magazine.

### Articles wanted!

#### WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH?

Write an article telling us what you find funny and who you enjoy laughing with.

Do you think it's good to laugh a lot? Why?

The best articles answering these questions will be published next month.

Write your article.

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
- Your story must begin with this sentence:

*I knocked on the door and waited.*

- Write your **story** in about **100** words on the opposite page.



## A2 Key / Key for Schools Speaking – what's changed

*If you could change one thing about the current Key speaking exam, what would you change and why?*

	Current exam	2020 Exam
<b>A2 Key</b>	Speaking 2 parts	Speaking 2 parts
	Approx. time 8-10 mins	Approx. time 8-10 mins

### Part What's changed

- 1 Introductory phase: focus on interactional and social language (similar to current Part 1)
- 2 New collaborative task: compare, describe and express opinions



## A2 Key / Key for schools Speaking – Part 1 (phase 2)

Now, let's talk about home.

**B**, who do you live with?

How many bedrooms are there in your house?

**A**, where do you watch TV at home?

What's your favourite room in your house?

### **Extended Response**

Now, **B**, please tell me what you like doing at home.

### **Back-up prompts**

Do you live with your family?

Are there three bedrooms in your house?

Do you watch TV in the kitchen?

Do you like your bedroom?

### **Back-up questions**

Do you like cooking?

Do you play computer games?

Did you stay at home last weekend?





## A2 Key / Key for schools Speaking – Part 1 (phase 2)

### Familiar topics

School

Hobbies

Entertainment

Food and drink

Sport

### School

*What is your favourite subject?*

*When did you start studying English?*

*How many .....?*

*Where .....?*

*Tell me something about....*

*Try and write questions about present circumstances, past experiences and future plans.*

*Give your opinions, explanations and reasons when answering the questions.*



Phase 1

Do you like these different holidays?



..... (Why?)

What country would you like to visit in the future, **A**? ..... (Why?/Why not?)

And what about you, **B**? (What country would you like to visit in the future?) .....  
(Why?/Why not?)

Thank you. That is the end of the test.



**What type of holiday do you like?**

**Is it better to go skiing alone or with other people?**



**Do you like skiing?**



**Do you often go sightseeing?**



## B1 Preliminary Speaking what's changed

4 parts in 10-12 minutes, as before. Some parts are in a different order.

### Part What's changed

- 1 Introductory phase: focus on interactional and social language
- 2 Individual long turn: describing a photo (similar to current Part 3)
- 3 Collaborative task: making suggestions and discussing alternatives (current Part 2)
- 4 Discussion: talking about likes/dislikes and habits, giving opinions (similar to current Part 4)



## Speaking Part 2

Individual long turn: describing a photo (similar to current Part 3)

### Back-up prompts

- Talk about the people/person
- Talk about the place
- Talk about other things in the photograph

1A



1B





## Speaking Part 3

Collaborative task: making suggestions and discussing alternatives (current Part 2)

A school visit to a capital city

1

The illustrations depict a variety of experiences: a busy street scene with people and shops; a circular inset showing a school bus labeled 'SCHOOL BUS' and 'VILLAGE TRIP' with students boarding; a park with a pond and people; a museum or gallery with a large bicycle on display; a double-decker sightseeing bus; a historical stone building with people on a balcony; a modern city skyline; a museum interior with a bust; and a group of people celebrating with their arms raised in front of a city skyline.



## Speaking Part 4

Discussion: talking about likes/dislikes and habits, giving opinions (similar to current Part 4)

### Part 4

Interlocutor

*Use the following questions, as appropriate:*

- **Would you like to have more school trips? (Where would you like to go?)**
- **What do you need to take when you go on a trip?**
- **Do you prefer to go on trips with your friends or your family? (Why?)**
- **What do you think is the best time of year to visit a city? (Why?)**
- **Which do you think is more interesting: visiting the countryside or visiting a city? (Why?)**

*Select any of the following prompts, as appropriate:*

- **How/what about you?**
- **Do you agree?**
- **What do you think?**

Thank you. That is the end of the test.



# Summary of the changes

- Enabling upwards certification
- Separate Reading and Writing papers at B1 Preliminary level
- Better coverage of the listening and writing constructs in A2 Key and B1 Preliminary
- More focus on fluency and interactive skills in A2 Key Speaking
- Greater alignment across Cambridge Assessment English Qualifications







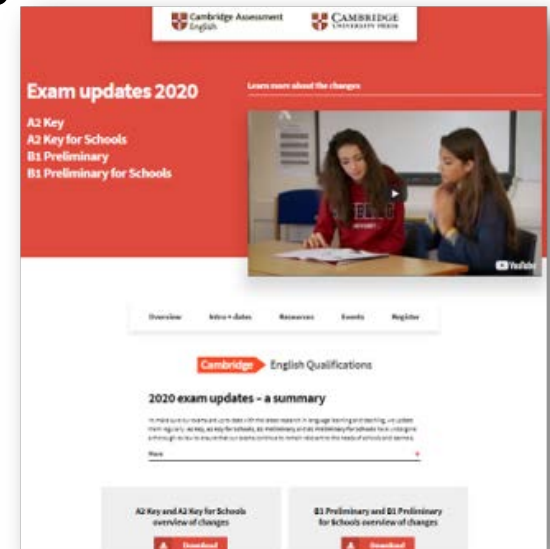
# Exam support





## Resources to help prepare students for the 2020 A2 Key and B1 Preliminary exams

- Overviews of the changes – postcards and video
- Sample tests
- Handbooks
- Word lists
- Speaking test videos with Examiner comments
- New lesson plans
- New classroom posters



[keyandpreliminary.cambridgeenglish.org/](https://keyandpreliminary.cambridgeenglish.org/)



# Questions?

