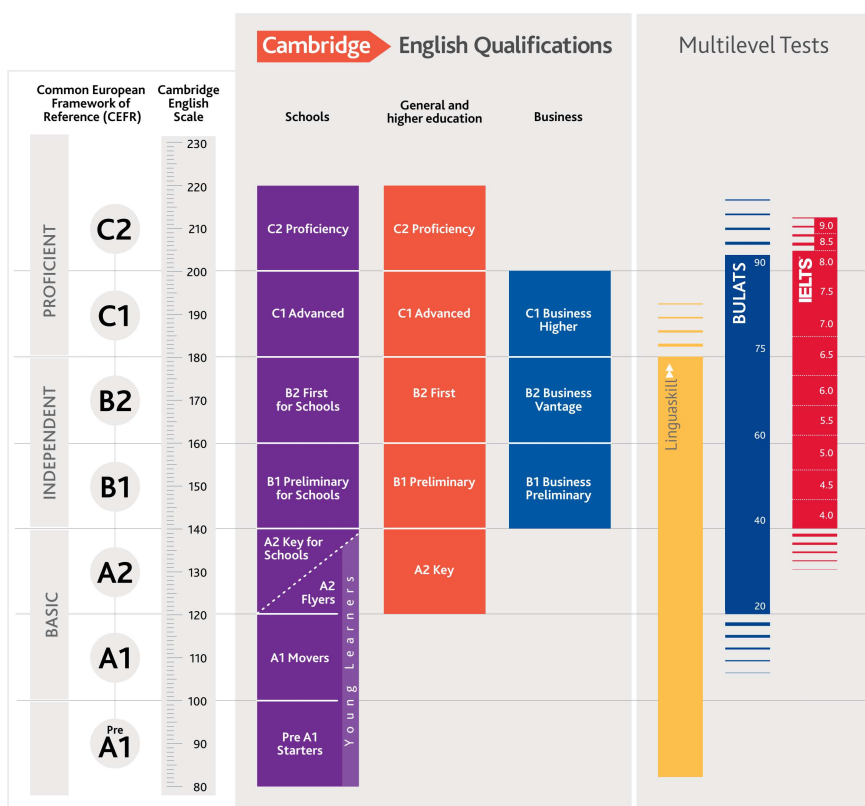


# Comparing scores to IELTS

B2 First is targeted at Level B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)\*. This qualification demonstrates that candidates have the language skills to live and work independently in an English-speaking country or study on courses taught in English at pre-degree level.

C1 Advanced is targeted at Level C1 on the CEFR. It is an in-depth qualification which shows that candidates have the high-level English language skills needed to study in English at undergraduate or postgraduate level, and to work and live in an English-speaking environment.



Each Cambridge English Qualification is focused on a specific CEFR level.

For exams from A2 Key to C2 Proficiency, including Business, we also report achievement above and below target level.

For Young Learners, we report achievement at the target level and the level below.

B2 First and C1 Advanced both report on the Cambridge English Scale, a single range of scores used to report results for Cambridge English Qualifications, as shown in the diagram above.

Many institutions need to know how Cambridge English Scale scores achieved in B2 First and C1 Advanced compare with IELTS\*\* band scores. The table opposite shows this relationship.

IELTS band score	Cambridge English Scale score
7.5	191
7.0	185
6.5	176
6.0	169
5.5	162
5.0	154

\* Further information about the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) can be found at [cambridgeenglish.org/cefr](http://cambridgeenglish.org/cefr).

\*\* IELTS is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and Cambridge Assessment English.

# Using B2 First and C1 Advanced scores

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Every successful B2 First and C1 Advanced candidate receives a Statement of Results, which contains the following information:

1. Score – their overall score on the Cambridge English Scale.
2. Candidate profile – their score on the Cambridge English Scale for each of the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking) and for Use of English.
3. Grade – relates to the score and is a letter grade from A to C.
4. Candidates also receive an overall level on the CEFR.

Candidates who have secured scores between 160 and 172 on B2 First are awarded grade C on that exam and are placed at Level B2 on the CEFR.

Candidates who have secured a C1 Advanced grade C, having scored between 180 and 192 on the Cambridge English Scale, are at Level C1 of the CEFR and can be expected to be comparable in ability with candidates who have secured 6.5 or 7.0 in IELTS. Candidates who have secured scores between 180 and 190 in B2 First are awarded a grade A for that exam. They are also placed at Level C1 of the CEFR. However, the breadth of coverage of B2 First at this level is limited and very careful consideration would be needed before accepting scores on B2 First as comparable to IELTS scores of 7.0. Candidates who have secured scores of 160 to 179 on C1 Advanced are placed at Level B2 and may be expected to be comparable to candidates who have secured 5.5 or 6.0 in IELTS.

Where institutions have specified a minimum IELTS requirement of 5.5, reference may be made to the Scale score, and a minimum requirement of 162 specified on either exam. If, say, the requirement is Band 6.0 overall but with a minimum score of 5.5 in any skill, then an overall score of 169 may be specified with minimum scores of 162 in Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Where an overall requirement of IELTS Band 7.0 has been set, then a score of 185 should be specified, but as explained above, it may be appropriate to specify that the score has been obtained on C1 Advanced rather than B2 First.

## Example requirements

IELTS requirements	Cambridge English requirements
Overall IELTS band score 5.5	Overall Cambridge English Scale score of 162, achievable in B2 First or C1 Advanced.
Overall IELTS band score 6.5 No less than 6.0 in any skill	Overall Cambridge English Scale score of 176 from C1 Advanced. No less than 169 in any paper.