

# Student's Notes

## First (FCE): READING & USE OF ENGLISH

This paper consists of seven parts with a total of 52 questions.

**Parts 1 to 4** focus on **Use of English**.

Many candidates feel especially nervous taking this part of the exam. It is true that it is demanding, learning and practicing strategies is key.

**Part 1** – 8 multiple-choice cloze (emphasis on vocabulary) questions with a choice of four answers (A, B, C or D) for each gap.

When making your choice, always look at what comes before and after the gap. Then read the whole sentence with your choice to ensure it makes sense. Be careful of distractors.

**Part 2** – An Open Cloze text with 8 gaps (testing grammar and vocabulary), each of which must be completed with one word.

**Part 3** – A text containing 8 gaps. There is a prompt word at the end of the line which you have to change so that it correctly fits into the gap. Changes include adjective – noun, noun – verb, etc.

Look at what goes before and after the gap and then think whether a noun, adjective, adverb or verb is appropriate. This will help you when you form the word given at the end of the line.

**Part 4** – 6 questions each worth two marks on key word transformations which test both grammar and lexis.

**Parts 5 to 8** focus on **Reading**.

**Part 5** – A text followed by six questions multiple-choice questions with four options (A, B, C or D). Each question is worth two marks.

Remember that the questions follow the same order as the text. Eliminate the options that are obviously wrong, and then check the remaining options. If you still cannot decide, make an educated guess.

**Part 6** – A text with six numbered gaps. After the text there are some sentences which you must place into the appropriate gap. Each correct answer is worth 2 marks.

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**Part 7** – 10 multiple matching questions, each worth one mark, tests your ability to find specific information in a text or texts.

By doing exam practice, discover which part of the exam you find easiest and hardest. Then answer questions from the easiest section first, building up to the hardest section. This will help you allocate your time and ensure that you gain marks on the questions that are the least difficult for you.

Never, ever leave a question blank. Always make a guess. You don't get marked down for wrong answers and it could be correct.