

## CIE First Language English Paper 1 and Paper 2 Summary and Tips

### Paper 1: Reading

Total Time: 2 hours

Total Marks: 80 marks

- Reading: 65 marks

- Writing: 15 marks

Question	Task	Marks	Time Allocated	Word Count	Tips
Q1 (a-e)	Comprehension (Text A)	15 marks	15–20 minutes	N/A	Read the command words and paragraph references carefully. Avoid overly long explanations unless required. Use your own words where specified. Do not guess or add unnecessary material. Follow the question order and stay within specified paragraphs.
Q1 (f)	Summary writing (Text B)	15 marks	20 minutes	Max 120 words	Highlight a range of ideas from the text, then reorganise them efficiently. Write clearly and concisely, ensuring relevance. Use formal, Standard English. Make a brief plan before writing. Avoid repetition or copying text.

Question	Task	Marks	Time Allocated	Word Count	Tips
<b>Q2 (a-c)</b>	Short-answer questions (Text C)	10 marks	15 minutes	N/A	Focus on precision when explaining word meanings. For 2(c), explain the meaning of your example in context and make distinct points. Avoid unnecessary guesses.
<b>Q2 (d)</b>	Analytical response (Text C) - Analyse effects of 2 paragraphs	15 marks	20 minutes	200–300 words	Explain the literal meaning of words/phrases in context first, then explore connotations and effects. Use precise, accurate quotations. Avoid long quotes or generalised comments. Select strong examples from each paragraph and ensure equal focus on both.
<b>Q3</b>	Extended writing (Text C)	25 marks	40 minutes	250–350 words	Focus on developing ideas and details from the text. Write fluently and concisely. Avoid repetition or copying phrases. Structure your writing logically and include a strong conclusion.

## Paper 2: Directed Writing and Composition

Total Time: 2 hours Total Marks: 80 marks

Question	Task	Marks	Time Allocated	Word Count	Tips
<b>Q1</b>	Directed Writing: Write 250–350 words in response to the task. Develop information from text(s) using discursive/argumentative/persuasive writing skills in a specified format (speech, letter, or article).	40 marks (15 for content, 25 for quality of writing)	60 minutes (includes editing and grammar check)	250–350 words	Read the task carefully to understand the requirements. Evaluate and develop ideas from the text(s). Organise your response logically. Pay attention to fluency, grammar, and formal tone.
<b>Q2</b>	Composition: Choose one title (descriptive or narrative) and write 350–450 words. Focus on content/structure and style/accuracy.	40 marks (16 for content and structure, 24 for style and accuracy)	60 minutes (includes editing and grammar check)	350–450 words	Choose a title that suits your writing style. Plan your structure before writing. Include vivid descriptions or engaging narrative. Ensure clarity, grammar, and varied sentence structures.