

C1 ADVANCED (CAE) CHEAT SHEET

Essential Exam Strategies, High-Level Structures & Formulaic Phrases

CEFR LEVEL C1

1. READING & USE OF ENGLISH TACTICS

Part 1–4: Structural Blueprint

- **Part 1 (Multiple Choice Cloze):** Focus on collocations, idioms, and subtle shade distinctions (e.g., "pay attention" vs. "draw attention").
- **Part 2 (Open Cloze):** Only 1 word! Always prepositions, articles, relative pronouns, linking words, or auxiliary verbs.
- **Part 3 (Word Formation):** Identify parts of speech first. Beware of negative prefixes (*un-, in-, dis-*) and plural endings!
- **Part 4 (Key Word Transformations):** Do NOT change the key word. Keep between 3 and 6 words. Count contractions as 2 words.

Part 5–8: Reading Efficiency

- **Part 5 (Multiple Choice):** Read the stem, scan for the text section, and eliminate options matching text words but conveying wrong logic.
- **Part 6 (Cross-Text Matching):** Map options across four short texts. Highlight agreement/disagreement markers.
- **Part 7 (Gapped Text):** Focus on pronouns (*this, these, former*), time sequences, and logical continuity surrounding the gap.
- **Part 8 (Multiple Matching):** Read questions first, underline key terms, and scan for synonyms and paraphrases.

2. HIGH-YIELD KEY WORD TRANSFORMATIONS (PART 4)

Grammar Target	High-Scoring Transformation Patterns
Inverted Conditional	"If you had told me..." → Had you told me , I would have acted differently.
Negative Inversion	"As soon as I arrived..." → No sooner had I arrived than it started raining.
Passive Preference	"People consider him talented." → He is widely considered to be talented.
Regret / Wish	"I should have accepted the offer." → I would rather have accepted the offer.
Advanced Comparison	"It was much cheaper than I expected." → It was nowhere near as expensive as expected.

3. SPEAKING EXAM TOOLKIT (PARTS 1–4)

Part 2: Long Turn (Comparing 2 Photos)

Never just describe the images; compare and speculate immediately.

- "While both pictures illustrate [topic], the former seems significantly more..."
- "One striking difference lies in the way the participants are..."
- "I get the impression that they might be experiencing..."
- "It is highly probable that this situation came about as a result of..."

Part 3 & 4: Collaborative Task & Discussion

Maintain interaction, build on ideas, and reach consensus.

- **Initiating:** "Shall we begin by looking at the impact of...?"
- **Adding value:** "That's a valid point, and building on that..."
- **Polite disagreement:** "I see where you're coming from, yet..."
- **Negotiating consensus:** "Would you agree that [X] takes priority?"

4. C1 WRITING FRAMEWORKS (220–260 WORDS)

Part 1: Compulsory Essay Structure

Paragraph 1: Introduction (Hook, paraphrase prompt, clear thesis statement on 2 chosen points).

Paragraph 2: First point (Elaborate + provide reasons/examples + explain consequence).

Paragraph 3: Second point (Contrast/expand + evaluate relative importance).

Paragraph 4: Conclusion (Summarize main arguments; state definitively which point is more key and why).

Part 2: Formal Report / Proposal

- **Structure:** Title + Clear Headings per section.
- **Tone:** Objective, passive, formal, actionable.
- **Key Phrases:**
 - "The purpose of this report is to evaluate..."
 - "It is recommended that steps should be taken to..."
 - "On balance, implementing [X] would yield..."

Part 2: Review / Article

- **Structure:** Catchy title, engaging opening, narrative/descriptive body, clear verdict.
- **Tone:** Personal, descriptive, evocative, sophisticated.
- **Key Phrases:**
 - "What sets this apart from its rivals is..."
 - "It leaves a lot to be desired in terms of..."
 - "I cannot recommend this highly enough to..."

5. C1 HIGH-LEVEL DISCOURSE MARKERS & LINKERS

Function	Standard (A2/B2)	Advanced C1 Alternative
Adding Info	Also, besides, in addition	Furthermore Coupled with Not to mention
Contrasting	But, however, although	Notwithstanding Be that as it may On the flip side
Cause / Effect	Because of, so, as a result	In light of Stemming from Consequently
Giving Examples	For example, like	To illustrate this point Case in point
Summarizing	In conclusion, in short	All things considered To sum up concisely

6. VOCABULARY BOOSTERS: C1 LEXICAL RESOURCE

Strong Adjective-Noun Collocations

- **A paramount importance** (crucial)
- **A pressing need** (urgent requirement)
- **Adverse effects** (harmful consequences)
- **Profound impact** (deep influence)
- **Fierce competition** (strong rivalry)

Sophisticated C1 Verbs

- **Exacerbate** (instead of "make worse")
- **Mitigate** (instead of "reduce problems")
- **Advocate for** (instead of "support")
- **Underpin** (instead of "be the basis of")
- **Foster** (instead of "help grow / encourage")