

General Overview of the Cambridge B1 Preliminary Test Prep Course

General Course Overview:

The ASB English Language Center's Cambridge PET test prep course is designed to prepare students ages 11-13 to acquire a **B1 level** of English. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), a **B1 Level** corresponds to a language learner who:

- Is able to understand the main points of clear texts in standard language if they are about topics with which they are familiar, whether in school or social contexts.
- Can cope with most of the situations that might arise on a trip to areas where the language is used.
- Is able to produce simple, coherent texts about topics with which they are familiar or in which they have a personal interest.
- Can describe experiences, events, wishes and aspirations, as well as briefly justifying opinions or explaining plans.

Instructional Skills:

In this course, students will aim to master the following skills:

- Language Development, which involves grammar and extensive vocabulary learning and practice.
- Writing Skills with a specific focus on essay writing in schools.
- Reading, which involves analysis of age-appropriate texts of current relevance.
- Listening, which includes comprehension of general and detailed information.
- Communication Skills, which cover a range of everyday conversations and presentations.

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are:

- to provide material for the students to learn and extend their command of English grammar and vocabulary;

- to develop students' reading skills to skim text for main ideas, scan text for specific information, interpret text for inferences, attitudes and styles, and deduce meaning from context clues; course readings will include text from newspaper and magazine articles.
- to develop students' writing skills to respond to a specific prompt and to select and summarize information for a range of writing activities, such as essays, reports and letters;
- to develop students' listening skills to enable them to follow and understand a range of spoken materials including announcements and discussions about everyday life.
- to develop students' speaking skills using social language. Students will take part in conversation by asking/answering questions and talking, for example, about their likes and dislikes.

Methods of Assessment:

Students will be evaluated throughout the course based on their progress and performance in the following key areas:

- individual and group oral presentations;
- oral interactions;
- written tests and tasks of various length (letters, faxes, reports, memoranda);
- essays;
- listening/viewing;
- understanding of age-appropriate reading passages;

Periodic evaluations will be administered in each of these areas to assess continuous student learning and results will be shared with parents.

Course Materials:

We will use the following textbooks and training materials published by Cambridge University Press in addition to other supplementary teaching materials. These resources will help students to obtain the necessary skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking, develop their abilities in making presentations and participating in discussions and enable them to achieve a reasonable level of social and academic language. Other complementary resources will be used in class, linked to the topic areas studied.:

Cambridge English Objective PET: Student's book with answers and test bank, 2nd edition
Cambridge English Objective PET: Student's book without answers with test bank and CD ROM, 2nd edition
Cambridge English Objective PET: Audio CD set, 2nd edition
Cambridge English Preliminary English Test with Answers 8
Cambridge English Vocabulary for PET with answers: Self-study vocabulary practice with Audio CD
Cambridge English Grammar for PET with answers: Self-study grammar reference and practice with Audio CD
Cambridge Objective PET Workbook with Answers

Teaching and Learning Methods:

Teaching, learning and assessment are designed to enable students to achieve the course objectives described above. While part of any session will involve direct teaching, the emphasis is on student participation, and I will encourage students to take part actively in discussion and in tasks like small group and pair work, role play, and individual or group presentations.

Independent Learning:

Students are expected to spend time studying outside the class, and weekly homework will be assigned to help them develop their expertise as independent language learners. For this course, students will spend approximately 2 hours/week outside of class time reviewing their class notes, reading, watching or listening to content in English, preparing exercises and activities for the next class, writing assignments, and acquiring a repertoire of effective language learning strategies.

Practice and Official Examinations:

In May 2024, we will spend the final four sessions of the course taking and reviewing the results of 2 full-length practice exams to ensure that students are ready to sit for the official Cambridge PET exam at the end of the course.

Depending on student enrollment numbers, we may be able to invite Cambridge examiners to come to the ASB campus to administer the official exam to our group of students. More information about exam fees, which normally run about 110€/student (not included in the tuition fee), and the exam date will be shared with families in late March 2024.

It is important to note that students learn at different rates, and some students may need extra support and more time before presenting for the PET exam. Alternative exam dates off-site in Barcelona are also available in December 2023 through our external Cambridge examination administrator, Exams Catalunya, for those who require additional preparation.

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Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for enrolling your child in the ASB Test Prep Course for the Cambridge PET Exam. I am fully aware that for some students this is a culmination of six or more years of study in our English Language Center. I truly look forward to accompanying them on this exhilarating journey to deepening their language proficiency and celebrating together their progress towards communicating effortlessly in English.

Kind regards,
Steve Brown
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