ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

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Cambridge Proficiency (C2) Test Prep Course

General Overview

The ASB English Language Center's Cambridge Proficiency test prep course is designed to prepare students ages 14-17 to acquire a C2 level of English. At this level, the student is approaching the linguistic competence of an educated native speaker, and is able to use the language in a range of culturally appropriate ways. According to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFRL), a C2 Level corresponds to a language learner who can:

- Understand with ease virtually everything heard or read.
- Summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation.
- Express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

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 writing clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured texts, expressing points of view at some length using an appropriate style. Write about complex subjects highlighting salient issues or presenting a case with an effective logical structure. Write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.
- Reading with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works, appreciating distinctions of style.

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- Listening: Understand with no difficulty any kind of spoken language, whether live or recorded, even when delivered at a fast, native speed, provided there is time to get familiar with the accent.
- Communication Skills: Take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion. Have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. Express and convey finer shades of meaning precisely and fluently. Backtrack and restructure around any difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

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 present and develop arguments, express and support opinions, and evaluate ideas. Describe, persuade, narrate, evaluate, make recommendations, give information, summarising from different sources.
- to develop students' listening skills to enable them to identify main points and select relevant details. Understand overall function and message. Infer underlying meaning, attitude, feelings and opinions. Recognize relationship between speakers and detect agreement and disagreement.
- to develop students' speaking skills presenting a clear, smoothly-flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

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Methods of Assessment

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

- oral interactions;
- written tests and tasks (letters, articles, reports, essays, proposals, reviews);
- listening/viewing;
- understanding of a range of 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. 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 an upper advanced level of social and academic language. Other complementary resources will be used in class, linked to the topic areas studied.:

Cambridge English Objective Proficiency, 2nd ed. - Student's coursebook and Workbook

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 we will encourage students to take part actively in discussion and in tasks like small group and pair work.

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

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language learners. For this course, students will spend approximately 2 hours/week reviewing their notes from class, reading, watching or listening to content in English, preparing exercises and activities for the class, writing assignments, and acquiring a repertoire of effective language learning strategies.

Practice and Official Examinations

At the end of the course, 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 C2 Proficiency 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 students. More information about exam fees, which are not included in the tuition cost, and the exam date will be shared with families, if your child's teacher recommends they are ready to sit for the official exam.

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 C2 Proficiency exam. Alternative exam dates off-site in Barcelona are also available through our official Cambridge exams administrator, Exams Catalunya, for those students who require additional preparation.