

# Course Description: Cambridge First Certificate Exam Preparation

## Who is this course for?

This programme is for students over the age of 16 and is suitable for students who wish to prepare for the internationally recognised Cambridge First Certificate in English examination.

The lessons cover both examination skills and techniques and work on improving all aspects of the students' English: speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.

There are 28 lessons (21 hours) of classes.

## What level are the classes?

Cambridge First Certificate classes are for Upper Intermediate (CEFR B2) students only.

**Upper Intermediate** (CEFR Independent User B2) Can communicate effectively in most situations. May still have problems with accuracy, fluency, appropriacy and organisation but usually can easily re-phrase in order to be understood.

Students' level will be assessed prior to entry onto the course and only those students who are ready for Exam Preparation classes will be admitted.

## How long is the course?

We normally recommend a 10 or 12-week course.

## Course Objectives

The primary objective of the course is to help students to achieve a good result in the First Certificate chosen exam. This is done by:

1. Training students in the skills and techniques they will need to perform well in the different parts of their chosen exam

2. Helping students to improve the level of their English through a combination of language input and practice activities in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing

Our courses aim to increase students' understanding of and sensitivity towards other cultures.

They also aim to help students develop the study skills that will enable them to continue to learn English after their course as part of a broader educational process that equips students for lifelong learning.

## Teaching Methods:

Examination skills practice involves looking at all the tasks in the different exam papers, training students in the techniques needed to accomplish these tasks and giving them extensive practice.

To help students improve the level of their English, we use the Communicative Approach to teaching. Students *use* English during the lessons to *learn* English. Students are expected to work together and participate in class activities. They are asked to work out rules for themselves and encouraged to become active learners. In general, more time is given to spoken English than written English, although all skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening are practised in the class.

Teachers choose the classroom activity to suit the needs of students and the aims of the student. As a result, lessons may include audio-visual materials, lessons, role plays and drama, letter and report writing, individual and group presentations, language games and competitions and practice tests.

### **Assessment of Progress:**

There will be homework set two or three times per week. Students are expected to complete this in their free time, in the school or at home.

Teachers use regular informal progress tests to check and confirm students' learning and progress throughout the course. More formal mock exams are taken nearer to the exam date. Students also have monthly tutorials at which progress is discussed and targets set.

### **Certification and Reports:**

All students receive an LTC certificate and leaver's report when they finish their programme, provided they have attended 80% or more of their lessons.

For students under 18 we are able to send progress reports and end-of-course reports to parents.

After taking the examination, successful students are issued with a certificate by Cambridge:

- Pass Grade A (Level C1)
- Pass Grade B (Level B2)
- Pass Grade C (Level B2)

Unsuccessful candidates may be issued with a Level B1 certificate.

### **Books and Learning Materials:**

The schools loan the students a coursebook. LTC's self-study facilities have a range of student books, practice materials, graded readers and audio and audio-visual resources for students.

### **FCE Exam Preparation classes will help students prepare for:**

**Paper 1: Reading** Multiple choice, gapped text and multiple matching questions

**Paper 2: Writing** Letters, emails, essays, reports, reviews and short stories (120-150 or 180 words)

**Paper 3: Use of English** Grammar and vocabulary questions: gap filling, word formation and sentence transformation

**Paper 4: Listening** Multiple choice, sentence completion and multiple matching questions

**Paper 5: Speaking** Talking about familiar topics, describing pictures, problem solving and discussion

### **In terms of language improvement, Upper Intermediate (B2) classes will help students:**

**Listen and respond** to spoken language, including information and narratives, and follow explanations and instructions of varying lengths. Responses are adapted to speaker, and to context.

**Speak to communicate** information, ideas and opinions, adapting speech and content for the listener(s) and medium.

**Engage in discussion** with one or more people in familiar and unfamiliar situations, making clear and relevant contributions that respond to what others say and produce a shared understanding about different topics.

**Read and understand** straightforward texts of varying length on a variety of topics accurately and independently.

**Read and obtain information** from a wide variety of different sources.

**Write to communicate** information, ideas and opinions clearly using appropriate length, format and style for the purpose and audience.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for Cambridge First Certificate and for IELTS at this level)

### **Further Information:**

Further information on the fees, application procedures and the schools can be found on our website at <http://www.ltc-english.com>