Universidad de Navarra

Curso preparación Cambridge First S2

Guía docente 2026-27

PRESENTATION

Course description

This intensive course provides thorough preparation for the Cambridge B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) English examination. The focus of the course is on examination skills and techniques, task-types and time management. Although some grammar and vocabulary teaching is included, it is expected that students will already have acquired sufficient skills in these areas to be able to make the most of the preparation course.

Access to the course is decided on the basis of a special Level Test taken online. To enroll, please take the placement test at https://forms.gle/1Mnkc1XD7H51wWSm7

Semester: Second

Type: Intensive

ECTS: 2 (para optar al reconocimiento de ECTS, confirmar en el link www.unav.edu/estudiantes/informacion-de-interes#creditos)

Professor: Douglas Anderson / danderson@unav.es

Language: English

Schedule: Saturdays, 09:00–13:00

Classroom: Seminario B1 (Ed. Amigos)

Start and End Dates: From 17/01/26 – 21/02/26 (Link to Academic calendar: https://www.unav.edu/documents/29062/30022427/Calendario_academico-25-26.pdf)

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Overall, a B2 English student can function effectively in academic and professional settings where English is used, supporting both independent learning and further language development.

The successful B2 intensive course candidate will have already passed a B2 course and/or taken an UNAV placement test (https://forms.gle/1Mnkc1XD7H51wWSm7) stating that he/she can enroll in this intensive course and will have acquired the following **linguistic skills:**

Listening: candidates can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. They can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes and the majority of films in standard dialect.

Reading: candidates can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints and can understand contemporary literary prose.

Spoken Interaction: candidates can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. They can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.

Spoken Production: candidates can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest. They can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

Writing: Candidates can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to his /her interests. They can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view and write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.

Exam techniques and strategies include:

1. Time management for each part. How to approach the reading comprehension questions.

2. How to approach the reading comprehension questions.

3. Exploring and developing ways of answering questions in the speaking exam.

4. How to write model examples of the five writing tasks.

PROGRAMME

This course prepares students for the Cambridge English First Certificate Exam (B2 level). It focuses on the skills required to successfully complete the three papers of the exam, as well as providing extensive exam practice in Reading and Use of English, Writing, Speaking, and Listening.

Every part of the exam will be practiced both in and outside of the classroom. This practice is reinforced with additional grammar and vocabulary exercises and learning and practicing strategies for each of the exam parts. All parts of the exam are re-examined over the remaining weeks.

Mock Listening, Reading & Use of English and Speaking exams will be done during the last two weeks of the course.

EXAM AND COURSE OUTLINE

- Reading and Use of English (1 hour, 15 minutes): what is tested in each part of the Reading paper is explained and practised in class. Part 5: Multiple-Choice questions; Part 6: Gap-Fill exercise; and Part 7: Multiple-Matching questions. Students acquire the skills they need to improve their performance in each part of the Reading paper.
- Use of English: what is tested in each part is explained and practised in class. Part 1: Multiple-Choice Cloze test; Part 2: Open Cloze test; Part 3: Word Formation; and Part 4: Sentence Transformation. The Intensive Course also provides guided study of grammar and vocabulary topics examined at FCE (B2) level.
- Writing (1 hour, 20 minutes): the format, style and register of the following writing tasks are explained in class: formal and informal e-mails and letters; a report; an article; a review; and an essay. Assignments are corrected in detail, and students are given specific suggestions on how to improve their written work.
- Listening (40 minutes): The Listening paper has four different parts; students hear each part twice. The general objectives include: understanding general meaning, specific details, opinions and attitudes, the relationship between speakers, etc. Students acquire the listening skills they need to improve their performance in the examination. In addition, students do one full Listening test under exam conditions (including answer sheets) during the course.
- Speaking (14 minutes): Students analyze a sample Speaking test. The classes centre on acquiring the following: general conversation skills; the language of comparison and contrast, speculation and hypothesis, opinion and suggestion, agreement and disagreement, decision-making, etc. In addition, students do two full Speaking tests under exam conditions during the course.

(See www.cambridgeesol.org/exams/general-english/fce.html for further details.)

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The didactic activities are aimed at:

I. Understanding the exam: Understanding what is required in each section of the exam, the evaluation criteria for written and oral expression, and the grading scheme for all parts of the exam.

II. Raising awareness of language skills: Studying sample written expression responses and using them as reference points, watching interview videos and using them as reference points.

III. Becoming familiar with the exam: Practicing the handling and use of answer sheets. Completing a minimum of 4 full exams.

IV. Applying exam strategies: Planning time management across the various parts of the exam components, practicing written expression under time constraints, and studying strategies and tips for each of the exam exercises.

Please note: According to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for language learning), the number of guided learning hours estimated to progress from a B1 to a B2 level is 200. (B2: 500-600 hours - C1: 700-800 hours). Obviously, there are individual differences that must be taken into account, but it should be clear that achieving a B2 level involves extensive personal work and commitment.

A mínimum of 4-5 hours of self-study per week is highly recommended.

ASSESSMENT

All participants will receive a final grade that reflects their performance in the course.

Grading criteria:

There will be an academic record, reflecting students' performance in the course. The final grade is based on attendance and participation and it will be either "meets the requirements" or "doesn't meet the requirements".

FUNDAE bonus criteria:

University staff subsidized by FUNDAE will receive the bonus if they meet the attendance requirements set by FUNDAE (in-presence classes: 75% of total sessions).

Additionally, they will receive a final grade reflecting their performance in the course (either "meets the requirements" or "doesn't meet the requirements").

Special Cases

Students with special needs must inform the instructor in advance to allow for appropriate accommodations.

OFFICE HOURS

Douglas Anderson

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Please send me an email at danderson@unav.es to arrange an appointment.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Provided by the Instituto de Idiomas:

Universidad de Navarra

Cambridge First Certificate in English 2, with Answers (C. U. P., Course textbook: 2016 - provided by the University);

Cambridge Test& Train https://www.cambridge.es/en/catalogue/exams/supplementary-material/testandtrain

Recommended:

(online practice) (*textbook)* Recycling Your English (Clare West, Georgian Press);

Supplementary class material: provided by class teacher.