IGCSE English First Language
Teacher to Teacher Tips

Kognity is designed to help you prepare your students for success in their studies, while saving you time in the process. We have taken some of the most frequently asked questions from IGCSE English First Language teachers and asked other IGCSE English First Language teachers to provide the answers to them. Explore them below!
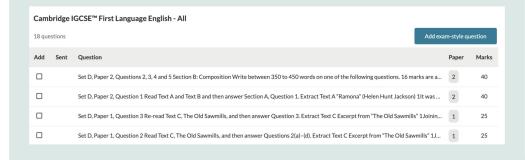
How do I prepare my students for Paper 1?

If teachers wish to focus on Paper 1, in particular, the following subtopics will likely be most relevant:

– Q1 Comprehension tasks: 1.1, 1.2.3 and 2.2.3.

– Q1 Summary task: 2.1, 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

– Q2: Short-answer questions: 1.1, 1.2.3 and 2.2.3.

– Q2: Language task: 2.2.4 and 2.3.

– Q3: Extended response to reading: 2.4.

There are five sets of exam questions that can be used at any time during the learning process. It is worth noting that, by the time students complete 2.4, they should have covered all of the relevant skills for Paper 1 (though some are explored further later on in the book). Teachers may wish to assess students on Paper 1 at this point.

Cambridge IGCSE™ First Language English - All

18 questions   [Add exam-style question]

Add	Sent	Question	Paper	Marks
☐		Set D, Paper 2, Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 Section B: Composition Write between 350 to 450 words on one of the following questions. 16 marks are a...	2	40
☐		Set D, Paper 2, Question 1 Read Text A and Text B and then answer Section A, Question 1. Extract Text A "Ramona" (Helen Hunt Jackson) 1It was ...	2	40
☐		Set D, Paper 1, Question 3 Re-read Text C, The Old Sawmills, and then answer Question 3. Extract Text C Excerpt from "The Old Sawmills" 1Joinin...	1	25
☐		Set D, Paper 1, Question 2 Read Text C, The Old Sawmills, and then answer Questions 2(a)–(d). Extract Text C Excerpt from "The Old Sawmills" 1J...	1	25

How do I prepare my students for their coursework?

Topics 5.1 and 6.1 cover the coursework elements including speaking and listening. Teachers should be aware that these sections aim to provide students with knowledge of how to approach this part of the exam. They do not teach the skills needed from scratch. Rather, skills that are relevant to coursework are taught throughout the textbook. Sections that focus on skills relevant to coursework will note this in the introduction.

How can students assess themselves using the mark schemes?

The mark schemes are designed to be as student-friendly as possible while bearing a true likeness to those used by Cambridge. For reading skills questions with definitive answers (such as the comprehension questions in Paper 1), students can simply be guided to answer the questions using the mark scheme in the review questions.

For longer form questions, where marking is more subjective (such as Paper 1, Question 2d and Question 3, or Paper 2), students may use the mark schemes to self assess, but teachers should mark the work themselves to provide an accurate grade. Students and teachers should be aware that many mark schemes have been reduced to focus only on the skill taught in a given section. This means that sometimes the mark schemes provided do not assess all the skills that might be assessed in the exam.

How can I encourage students to revise or prepare for their exam?

Because the exam is skills based, students often don't know where to start in preparing or revising for First Language English.

Kognity aims to build knowledge of how to use these skills in a way that is learnable and reviseable. Each section teaches a skill by breaking it down into a set of smaller steps. It is useful to guide students to pay attention to both the main skill and the smaller steps needed to master it. They can then revise by engaging in activities to memorize their knowledge of the skill in the same way they would in other knowledge-based subjects: flashcards, posters, mindmaps etc.

In this section, you will meet a range of individuals who have found new ways of creating bonds between people. You will explore questions such as:

- How can you build bonds between people?
- What is it that connects us?
- How can being a part of a community benefit us?
- How can we combat loneliness?