

Lukas Klütmann (Q1):

My experience and personal thoughts on the Cambridge English course and exam

In general I never intended to join an “Advanced English Course”. But then my English teacher Ms. Niederhagen offered our course to join the so called “Cambridge English Club”. At first I was a bit sceptical about joining, but after a few days of thinking, I wanted to sign up for the course. My reasoning was that I wanted to enhance my knowledge even further and to show that I have the required abilities to pass the C1 exam. And today, I am really glad that I joined the Club. Our teacher Ms. Schmidt was a very friendly and understanding person and always helped us by correcting our mistakes and by supplying advanced vocabulary. That was one of the reasons why I enjoyed this course a lot.

But now to the preparations and the course itself:

At the beginning we were supposed to buy a book for C1 learners. This was the fundamental material we had to work with. Even though I thought that it would be really boring to work with the book, my opinion changed. It had some interesting topics to talk about, e.g culture and our personal experiences and opinions. Sometimes we had lessons in which we discussed technology or our role models. Just talking about it in English with my course was really fun and enjoyable. Of course we also had to do some learning. We had to do tasks with gaps we were supposed to fill with missing words or grammar tasks to recapture our grammar knowledge. Another type of tasks were the writing tasks, where we for example had to write an essay about a certain topic. This was also very important because writing was one part of the exam. In the final lessons we did some preparations for the final exam and worked on mock exams. In addition we took a look at an example on the speaking part, which took place the day after the first section of the exam. This mixture of different tasks and discussions was fun most of the time. This went on for about 5-6 months until the final exam took place.

Now to the exam:

We had to be at our school at half past 8. After getting tested for Covid and preparing ourselves for the finals, we began with the “Reading and Use of English” part. We had to fill gaps with the missing vocabulary or with vocabulary which we had to rewrite into the correct form. At the end there were 4 texts in total which we had to read and do tasks on (e.g fill in the missing passages or general questions to the text). Overall for me this part was pretty easy, even though the reading part was a little tricky to work with.

The second part was the writing part. We were asked to write an essay on technology and the effect of it. Then we had 3 tasks to choose from: A review, report or one other text. I chose the

report, which we had to write to our principal regarding a charity project and our success after 1 year and possible changes and possibilities in the future. I found the writing part the most fun part because I was able to write about topics which were really interesting to me.

The final part was the listening part. We listened to different types of texts and then had to work on multiple-choice questions or missing words in given phrases. In my opinion this was the trickiest part of the whole exam, because the answers were really similar and exactly as correct as the others, which led us to separate the answers from each other. And then after 4 hours of writing, listening and breaks in between, we were finally able to go home. I was glad that I managed to work on the tasks properly. Even though it was a little stressful, I enjoyed the time.

Then the final section of the Cambridge Exam: Speaking:

The day after the writing exam we had to go to Wuppertal to the so called "Bergische VHS". After my friend and I were greeted friendly, we were sent to a warm-up room to just get the flow of speaking again. After a couple of minutes the oral exam started. First we had to introduce ourselves to the examiners and right after that we had to describe and compare pictures, talk about how traditions have changed nowadays and will maybe in the future. After 15 minutes we got out and went back home. I wasn't really nervous and enjoyed this part of the exam as well.

Now, after having talked about my personal experience and about the schedule of this years' *Advanced Cambridge Certificate Exam*: Would I recommend others to join the *Cambridge English Club*??

In short: Yes, I would absolutely recommend you to join it. Not only because you will improve your speaking and writing skills, but also to get a certificate which will show you that you are capable of speaking on a certain English level which is really worth the money and effort. Furthermore it was a really enjoyable course with a nice atmosphere and a great teacher.

I would also like to thank my school for planning and giving us the chance to join the *Cambridge Course*. Most of us wouldn't have been thinking to participate in the C1 exam. Have a great day and take care!

Lukas,

Q1