

✓ Getting it right –
choosing the right exam for
your students

Bergamo 6 marzo 2009



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

Experts in Language Assessment

Margaret Fowler

Examinations Services Manager
British Council
Via Manzoni 38
Milan





British Council IATEFL

Teacher Training Conference Milan

23-25 March 2009

www.britishcouncil.it



Today's aims

- Raise awareness of choice of exam formats available and reasons for more choice
 - KET/PET
 - TKT modules - CLIL
- Raise awareness of factors to consider when making a choice

KEY message

- POSITIVE IMPACT!





Cambridge exams in Bergamo

The British Council runs exams for over 1,500 candidates every year in Bergamo

Pass rates

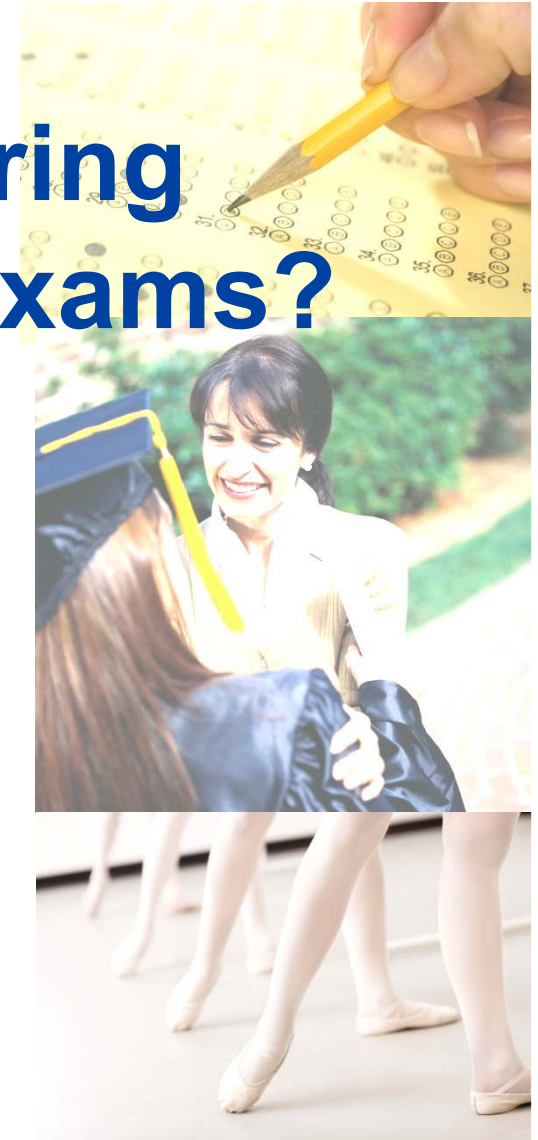
- KET 82%
- PET 85%
- FCE 81%



Fees and dates

Your experience of preparing students for Cambridge exams?

Positive effects?
Benefits?





Why do external tests?

- Give you and your students a clear objective
- An instrument to compare with the outside world
- benchmark, CEF
- Develop all 4 skills equally
- Credits for Italian and foreign universities
- An international certificate to put on curriculum vitae



Your experience of preparing students for Cambridge exams?

- Negative effects?
- Anything you'd like to change?

What exams are available? When?

Scuola Elementare	Scuola media	Scuola Superiore	University
Starters A1 Movers A1	(Movers A1) (Flyers A2) KET A2 KET for Schools A2 PET for schools B1	PET B1 FCE B2 CAE C1 BEC Preliminary BEC Vantage	PET B1 FCE B2 CAE C1 BEC B1B2C1 ILEC B2 C1 IELTS



Why the new tests?

- Feedback from teachers and candidates in other countries
- Make tests reflect age of candidates
- Help candidates show what they can do in their own contexts



Major features of KET & PET tests

Exam	Four skills	Number of papers	Sessions per year	CEF level	Age range
KET	Yes	3	6	A2	15 +
KET for schools	Yes	3	6	A2	11 - 14
PET	Yes	3	6	B1	15 +
PET for schools	Yes	3	6	B1	11 -14

Typical content – KET for schools

Reading and Writing • Part 4

Questions 21 – 27

Read the article about a young swimmer.

Are sentences **21 – 27** 'Right' (**A**) or 'Wrong' (**B**)?

If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (**A**) or 'Wrong' (**B**), choose 'Doesn't say' (**C**).

For questions **21 – 27**, mark **A**, **B** or **C** on your answer sheet.

Ana Johnson



Ana Johnson is a 13-year-old swimmer who lives in Melbourne in Australia. Her dream is to swim for Australia in the next Olympics.

She swims in both long and short races and she has already come first in many important competitions.

As well as spending many hours in the pool, Ana also makes time for studying and for friends. 'I have lots of friends who swim and we're very close. It's much easier to have friends who are swimmers because they also have to get up early to practise like me and they understand this kind of life. But I'm not so different from other people my age. In my free time I also enjoy going to the movies and parties. There are also some good things about swimming for a dub. I travel a lot for competitions and I've made friends with swimmers from other Australian cities and from other parts of the world.'

Ana is becoming well known in Australia and she believes it is important to get more young people interested in swimming. 'I don't mind talking to journalists and having my photograph taken. But last year I was on TV and that was much more fun.'

Typical content – KET for schools

Reading & Writing pt 8

Come to an ice-skating party
on Saturday
at
Park Ice Rink
Starts at 1.30 p.m.
You won't need any money
but bring a warm sweater.
Let me know if you can come
by Thursday.
Sara

From: Carla
To: Louisa

Shall we go to Sara's ice-skating party together?
My dad will take us in the car but we'll need to
come back by bus. We'll drive to yours and get
you at 12.30. Ring me this afternoon on my
mobile (07816 212185) or after 6 p.m. at home
(366387) to let me know.

Louisa's Notes
Ice-skating party

Person having party: Sara

Day: 51

Time: 52 p.m.

Take: 53

Travel there by: 54

Carla's evening phone number: 55

Typical content – KET for schools

Listening • Part 5

Questions 21 – 25

You will hear a man on the radio talking about a new TV quiz show.
Listen and complete each question.
You will hear the information twice.

New quiz show






Name:	Answer That!
Day:	(21)
Number of teams:	(22)
Questions will be about:	Films, TV and (23)
This week's prize:	(24)
To be on the show, phone:	(25)

Typical content – PET for schools

Reading • Part 2

Questions 6 – 10

The teenagers below are all looking for a magazine to read. On the opposite page there are descriptions of eight magazines for young people. Decide which magazine would be the most suitable for the following teenagers. For questions 6-10, mark the correct letter (A-H) on your answer sheet.

- 6  Olaf would like to read stories that people his own age have written. He is also keen on music and would like some recommendations on the best bands to listen to.
- 7  Becca wants to know more about the lives of famous people who frequently appear in the news. She is also interested in clothes and would like recommendations on what to wear.
- 8  Hiro is interested in learning more about the latest international events. He is also keen on the cinema and would like to read different opinions on what to see.
- 9  Gina is interested in geography and the natural world. She would also like to read articles that tell her about the lives of people from other countries.
- 10  Chris enjoys going to concerts and wants to find out more about the people in his favourite bands. He is also keen to read articles written by other teenagers.



Typical content – PET for schools

Writing • Part 3

Write an answer to **one** of the questions (7 or 8) in this part.
Write your answer in about **100 words** on your answer sheet.
Mark the question number in the box at the top of your answer sheet.

Question 7

- This is part of a letter you receive from an English friend.

For my homework project I have to write about a special day that people celebrate in your country. Which special day should I write about? What information should I include?

- Now write a letter to your friend.
- Write your **letter** on your answer sheet.

Question 8

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
- Your story must begin with this sentence:

Jo looked at the map and decided to go left.

Typical content – PET for schools

Speaking Test 1 (Teenage bedroom)

Part 3 (3 minutes)

Interlocutor
Says to both candidates:

Now, I'd like each of you to talk on your own about something. I'm going to give each of you a photograph of teenagers in their bedrooms at home.

Candidate A, here is your photograph. (Place Part 3 booklet open at Task 1A, in front of Candidate A.) Please show it to Candidate B, but I'd like you to talk about it. Candidate B, you just listen. I'll give you your photograph in a moment.

Candidate A, please tell us what you can see in your photograph.

(Candidate A)

Approximately one minute

If there is a need to intervene, prompts after their closed questions should be used.

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?)

Retrieve Part 3 booklet from Candidate A.

Interlocutor

Now, Candidate B, here is your photograph. I also show a teenager in his bedroom at home. (Place Part 3 booklet open at Task 1B) in front of Candidate B.) Please show it to Candidate A and tell us what you can see in the photograph.

(Candidate B)

Approximately one minute

Thank you. (Can I have the booklet please?)

Retrieve Part 3 booklet from Candidate B.



© Nicky Haslewood/Corbis



Part 4 (3 minutes)

Interlocutor
Says to both candidates:

Your photographs show teenagers in their bedrooms at home. Now, I'd like you to talk together about the things you have in your bedrooms at home now and the things you'd like to have in your bedrooms in the future.

Allow the candidates enough time to complete the task without intervention. Prompt only if necessary.

Thank you. That's the end of the test.



Parts 3 & 4 should take about 6 minutes together.



Practical information

- From March 2009 (6 fixed date sessions), to run alongside current KET and PET (but on different days)
- CB KET and PET for Schools from 2010
- Current KET and PET to gradually become focused more on 15+ topics



This year's sessions

- Friday, 13 March 2009
- *Saturday, 16 May 2009*
- *Saturday, 30 May 2009*
- *Wednesday, 10 June 2009*
- Friday, 20 November 2009
- Saturday, 5 December 2009



New improved certification



Results Grades

- Pass with Merit >>>> Certificate
- Pass >>>> Certificate

Narrow Fail

Fail



From March 2009

- Pass with Merit >>>> Certificate
- Pass >>>> Certificate

Narrow Fail >>>> Certificate = CEF level
Fail



Change in certification

- PET Narrow Fail Certificate indicating A2
- KET Narrow Fail Certificate indicating A1



How do I prepare?

NEW Support materials

- handbooks for Teachers published & on website
- audio downloadable from website
- sample papers on website

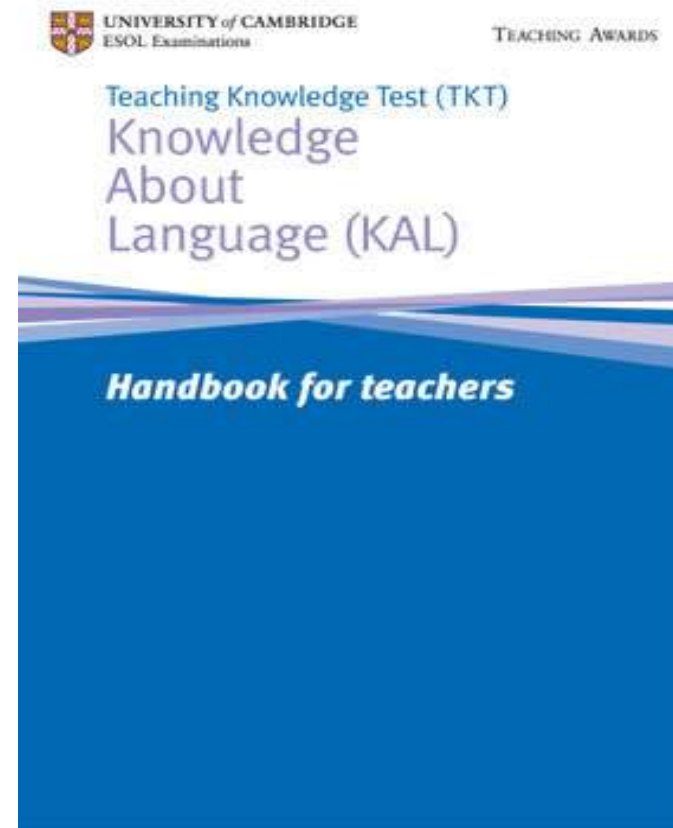
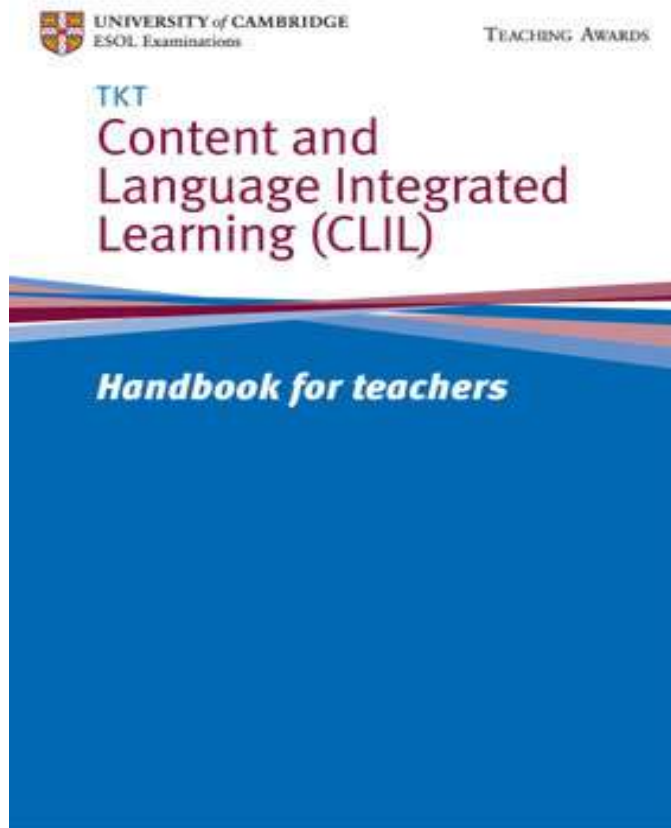


FAQs

- Are the 'for schools' tests easier?
- Can a 16 year old take the for schools test?
- Can a 14 year old do the traditional test?
- Will the British Council continue to run ICambridge exams in Bergamo?



TKT New Modules – CLIL & KAL





TKT -Teaching Knowledge Test

Module 1

**Language and background to
language learning and teaching**

Module 2

**Lesson planning and use of resources
for language teaching**

Module 3

**Managing the teaching and learning
process**



What is CLIL?

Content and **L**anguage **I**ntegrated **L**earning

‘An approach in which a foreign language is used as a tool in the learning of a non-language subject in which both language and the subject have a joint role’

(Marsh in Coyle: 2006:1)



General contents of TKT CLIL

Part 1

- Knowledge of CLIL and principles of CLIL

Part 2

- Lesson preparation
- Teaching strategies
- Assessment

Find out more

www.onestopclil.com

The screenshot shows the homepage of onestopclil.com. At the top left is the 'one stop clil' logo. To its right is a navigation bar with 'Contact | Help | About' and the Macmillan logo. Below the logo is a login section with fields for 'Enter email address' and 'Password', and a 'Go' button. A 'Forgotten password?' link is also present. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with links: Home, Young Learners, Secondary, Image Gallery, Vocabulary, Methodology, Lesson Share, CLIL Teacher Magazine, Discussion Forum (with a checkmark), and Digital. The main content area features the heading 'Onestopclil - The Resource Bank for CLIL Teachers' and a welcome message: 'Looking for CLIL resources? Teaching school subjects in English? Welcome to onestopclil.com.' Below this is a paragraph describing the site as a subscription service from Macmillan Education for teachers of content and language integrated learning (CLIL). A link to 'Subscribe to onestopclil today' is provided, along with a link to 'Check out our range of FREE CLIL sample resources'. At the bottom of the main content area, there are two featured images: 'Young Learners' showing a group of children and 'Secondary' showing a student using a microscope. On the right side, there are three sections: 'Using onestopclil' with a 'Subscribe here' link, 'Site Search' with a search box and 'Go' button, and 'External Links' with a note that links will open in a new window. A 'science museum' logo is visible in a box at the bottom right.



TKT KAL

- tests a candidate's knowledge of the language systems needed by teachers for planning and teaching their lessons: grammar, lexis, phonology & discourse
- suitable for pre or in service teachers from all sectors of education: primary, secondary and tertiary
- no formal entry requirements but candidates advised to have at least B2



Summary

- KET & PET for schools widens choice and helps to improve motivation through candidate oriented content
- **Exactly the same level as original KET and PET (A2,B1)**
- **Wider choice of dates is positive**
- Exam preparation does not significantly change
- New TKT modules available – CLIL and KAL



Further information
www.CambridgeESOL.org



www.britishcouncil.it

- www.cambridgeesol/teach
- www.teachingenglish.org.uk
- www.britishcouncil.org/kids
- www.britishcouncil.org/parents

- esami.milano@britishcouncil.it