

Cambridge Secondary 1

English Curriculum Framework

Cambridge
Secondary 1

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Introduction

Welcome to the Cambridge Secondary 1 English curriculum framework.

This framework provides a comprehensive set of progressive learning objectives for English. The objectives detail what the learner should know or what they should be able to do in English in each year of lower secondary education. They provide a structure for teaching and learning and a reference against which learners' ability and understanding can be checked.

The Cambridge Secondary 1 English curriculum promotes an enquiry-based approach to learning to develop thinking skills and encourage intellectual engagement. The curriculum is presented in five content areas. *Phonics, spelling and vocabulary* and *Grammar and punctuation* relate to use of English. *Grammar and punctuation* is further divided into *Reading* and *Writing* to reflect the different ways in which grammar and punctuation are applied in each of these skills. *Reading, Writing, and Speaking and listening* are about developing thinking skills and encouraging intellectual engagement. The learning objectives span knowledge and understanding and other qualities. This curriculum encourages learners who are confident, creative and intellectually engaged, capable of applying their skills to respond to a range of information, media and texts with enjoyment and understanding. Learners who follow this framework will develop a first language competency in English based on a curriculum designed to be successful in any culture and to promote cross-cultural understanding. The Cambridge Secondary 1 English curriculum framework continues the journey from the primary English framework and provides a solid foundation upon which the later stages of education can be built.

The Cambridge Curriculum is founded on the values of the University of Cambridge and best practice in schools. The curriculum is dedicated to developing learners who are confident, responsible, innovative and engaged. Each curriculum framework for English, mathematics and science is designed to engage learners in an active and creative learning journey.

Phonics, spelling and vocabulary

- Spell correctly most words used.
- Increase knowledge of word families, roots, derivations, morphology and regular spelling patterns.
- Use a dictionary and thesaurus effectively to further develop vocabulary.
- Learn a range of vocabulary appropriate to their needs, and use words precisely in speech and writing to clarify and extend meaning and to interest their audience.
- Learn to use the terms ‘image’, ‘simile’, ‘metaphor’, ‘onomatopoeia’, ‘setting’ and ‘genre’.

Grammar and punctuation

Reading

- Comment on the use of formal and informal language and discuss the writer’s motivation for making the choice.
- Show awareness of the reasons for using longer and shorter sentences.
- Begin to comment on the control of pace and meaning through choice of sentences and variety of sentence openings.

Writing

- Use a wide range of punctuation to make meaning clear, including generally accurate use of commas in complex sentences and to present dialogue.
- Use correct grammar, including articles, word order and tenses in a range of genres and text types.
- Clarify relationships between ideas with an increasingly accurate and growing use of connectives.
- Provide clarity and emphasis in writing, using a variety of sentence lengths, structures and subjects.
- Use a range of increasingly complex sentence structures to communicate meaning and to give fluency to their writing.
- Build up detail and convey shades of meaning through sentence structure, e.g. controlling order of clauses, expanding verb phrases.

Stage 7

Reading

The following genres and text types are recommended at Stage 7:

Fiction and poetry: suspense and horror stories, sci-fi and fantasy novels, contemporary folk and fairy-tales, short stories (including those set in different times and places), older literature (including drama), narrative and non-narrative poems, significant poems from before 1900.

Non-fiction: contemporary biography, autobiography, letters and diaries, journalistic writing/writing with bias, news websites.

Fiction and poetry

- Demonstrate understanding of features of narrative and non-narrative texts by explaining and developing these features in their own discussion and writing.
- Use inference and deduction to recognise implicit and inferred meanings.
- Identify and understand the main ideas, viewpoints, themes and purposes in a text. Support comments by quotation from more than one location in the text.
- Identify and describe the effect of writers' and poets' use of literary, rhetorical and grammatical features, including imagery and figurative language.
- Comment on a writer's use of language, demonstrating an understanding of the implication of their use of vocabulary.

- Give an informed personal response to a text and provide some textual reference in support.
- Understand how readers make choices about the texts they like reading, e.g. by author or genre and know a range of ways in which to respond to texts.
- Compare poems, showing awareness of poets' use of language and its intended impact on the reader.
- Understand the different ways texts can reflect the social, cultural and historical contexts in which they were written.

Non-fiction

- Extract the main points and relevant information from a text or ICT source, using a range of strategies such as skimming and scanning.
- Make relevant notes to select, collate and summarise ideas from texts.
- Explore the range of different ways writers use layout, form and presentation in a variety of texts.
- Explore the variety and range of ways in which the content of texts can be organised, structured and combined.

Writing

Fiction and poetry

- Develop different ways of generating, organising and shaping ideas, using a range of planning formats or methods.
- Understand the conventions of standard English and how to use them consistently in writing.
- Write to express a personal viewpoint.
- Shape the overall organisation, sequence and presentation of a text to convey ideas clearly and effectively.
- Mirror the purpose of the writing by appropriate use of paragraphs and selection of linking words and phrases.
- Use vocabulary precisely and imaginatively to clarify and extend meaning and create specific effects.
- Vary sentence length and structure in order to provide appropriate detail and clarify relationships between setting, characters, themes, plot, etc.
- Begin to develop character and voice in fiction writing.
- Explore some of the key linguistic and literary techniques used by writers, and begin to use them for intended effect.
- Understand and use degrees of formality in a range of texts according to context, purpose and audience.

Non-fiction

- Use features and conventions of a wide variety of text types in order to write to inform, explain, describe, argue, persuade and comment.
- Practise note-taking using different styles for different purposes.

Speaking and listening

- Speak for a variety of purposes, such as to explain, describe, narrate, explore, analyse, imagine, discuss, argue and persuade.
- Deliberately shape talk for clarity and effect and to engage listener.
- Use a range of vocabulary appropriate to context, and use language to clarify meaning and to interest and convince their audience.
- Practise speaking fluently and clearly at an appropriate pace and volume.
- Develop the ability to listen courteously to others and be sensitive to turn taking.
- Begin to make significant contributions to group discussions, engaging with complex material, making perceptive responses and showing awareness of a speaker's aims.
- Work in solo, paired and group assignments, including role-play.
- Through role-play, show insight into texts and issues through choice of speech, gesture and movement.
- Explain features of own and others' language, showing sensitivity to the impact of varying language for different purposes and situations.

Phonics, spelling and vocabulary

- Spell most words correctly, including some complex polysyllabic words and unfamiliar words.
- Learn the spelling of difficult and commonly misspelt words and develop strategies for correcting spelling.
- Learn an increasingly wide range of vocabulary appropriate to their needs.
- Explain, using accurate terminology, how language is used to create effect, e.g. personification, figurative language, imagery, patterns and structure in the use of language, use of dialect or informal language.
- Create considered and appropriate effects by drawing independently on the range and variety of their own vocabulary, and extending their vocabulary by noting down powerful words in books read.

Grammar and punctuation

Reading

- Comment on the use of a wide range of punctuation to convey shades of meaning.

Writing

- Use accurate punctuation including commas in various situations, including parenthetical commas, colons, semi-colons, dashes and brackets.
- Begin to use formal and informal language for specific purposes.
- Demonstrate controlled use of a variety of simple and complex sentences to achieve purpose and contribute to overall effect.
- Confidently use a range of sentence features to clarify or emphasise meaning, e.g. fronted adverbials, complex nouns or prepositional phrases.

Stage 8

Reading

The following genres and text types are recommended at Stage 8:

Fiction and poetry: political novels/stories with social issues, myths and legends from around the world, humour, short stories, significant poems and drama from other cultures, poems since 1900.

Non-fiction: contemporary biography, autobiography, letters and diaries, journalistic writing, magazines and newspapers, reports and leaflets.

Fiction and poetry

- Recognise implied meaning, e.g. expression of opinion, inference of character, meaning contained in an image, ironic effect.
- Identify relevant points, synthesising and summarising ideas from different parts of the text.
- Explore the range, variety and overall effect of literary, rhetorical and grammatical features used by poets and writers of literary and non-literary texts. Include study of informal or formal style as well as the choice of words to create character.
- Comment on how the writer's use of language contributes to the overall effect on the reader, using appropriate terminology.
- Broaden their experience of reading a wide range of texts and express their preferences and opinions.
- Trace the development of a writer's or poet's ideas, viewpoint and themes through a text and relate these to other texts read.

- Compare poems from different cultures and times, commenting on different poets' use of language and imagery to develop similar themes and elicit responses from the reader.
- Explore how different audiences choose and respond to texts.
- Explore why certain texts are important within a culture and show awareness that the context in which the text is written and read affects its meaning.

Non-fiction

- Use a range of reading strategies to find relevant information and main points in texts, distinguishing between fact and opinion where appropriate.
- Make relevant notes when researching different sources, comparing and contrasting information.
- Explain how specific choices and combinations of form, layout and presentation create particular effects.
- Demonstrate understanding of the effects created by features of diaries, magazines and newspaper reports.
- Demonstrate understanding of the main features, including the structure, of each genre and text type studied.

Writing

Fiction

- Identify the most appropriate approach to planning their writing in order to explore, connect and shape ideas.
- Apply skills in editing and proofreading to a range of different texts and contexts.
- Develop ideas to suit a specific audience, purpose and task.
- Draw on their knowledge of a variety of sentence lengths and a wide variety of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and apply it to their own writing to make their ideas and intentions clear and create a range of effects.
- Use a range of cohesive devices with audience and purpose in mind.
- Experiment with different ways of presenting texts, bearing in mind the audience and purpose.
- Draw on knowledge of how and why writers use varying degrees of formality and informality to make appropriate choices of style and register in their own writing.
- Understand the significance and importance of conventional standard English and the ways in which writers use non-standard forms in specific contexts for particular effects.
- Create and control effects by drawing on the range and variety of own vocabulary.

Non-fiction

- Develop a consistent viewpoint in non-fiction writing by selecting from techniques and devices used by known writers, and drawing on a range of evidence, opinions, information and purposes.
- Write in a range of forms for a variety of purposes, including:
 - autobiography (to entertain, inform, review or comment)
 - diary entries (to inform, explain, review, comment or explore)
 - leaflets or newspaper reports (to inform)
 - letters (to persuade, entertain, narrate or comment)
 - magazine articles (to describe, review or comment)
 - reports (to review, inform, advise, or argue)
 - reviews (to inform, entertain or advise)
 - summaries

Stage 8

Speaking and listening

- Give short presentations and answer questions, maintaining effective organisation of talk.
- Adapt speech, non-verbal gesture and movement to meet an increasing range of demands.
- Explore complex ideas and feelings, both succinctly and at length.
- Take part in a simple debate following formal rules (proposer, seconder, etc.).
- Engage with more demanding material through perceptive responses to other students' talk, showing awareness of the speaker's aims and extended meanings.
- Conduct a discussion, drawing together ideas and promoting effective sharing of ideas.
- Work in groups to formulate ideas and plans of action.
- Develop skills in solo, paired and group assignments, including role-play and drama.
- Help to plan and participate in a brief dramatic scene, demonstrating empathy and understanding of a range of characters through flexible choice of speech, gesture and movement.
- Discuss the features of media productions such as news broadcasts, interviews and discussions, analysing meaning and impact of variations in spoken language.

Stage 9

Phonics, spelling and vocabulary

- Spell correctly throughout a substantial text including ambitious or complex polysyllabic words.
- Continue to be aware of spelling errors and correct them.
- Continue to extend range of language and use it appropriately.
- Show some appreciation of how the writer's language choices contribute to the overall effect on the reader, e.g. demonstrating the effectiveness of imagery in contrasting texts or arguing that the use of highly emotive language in an advertisement is/is not counterproductive in its effect on an audience.
- Shape and affect the reader's response through conscious choices and in planned ways by selecting ambitiously from a wide and varied vocabulary for a range of tasks, purposes and readers.

Grammar and punctuation

Reading

- Develop precise, perceptive analysis of how language is used, e.g. explaining how euphemisms conceal bias in a political statement or showing how language use reflects a character's changing emotional state.

Writing

- Use a range of features to shape and craft sentences that have individual merit and contribute to overall development of the text, e.g. embedded phrases and clauses that support succinct explanation; secure control of complex verb forms; use antithesis, repetition or balance in sentence structure.
- Demonstrate control of wide variety of sentence types used for intended purpose and desired effect.

Reading

The following genres and text types are recommended at Stage 9:

Fiction and poetry: short stories with similar themes for comparison, contemporary stories including dialogue with dialect, novels written through letters or diary accounts, texts from different cultures and traditions, older drama from other cultures, different poetic forms from around the world.

Non-fiction: travel writing, advertising copy, reference books and encyclopedias – both concise and longer texts, reports and leaflets.

Stage 9

Reading (continued)

Fiction and poetry

- Analyse and respond to the range of ideas and differing viewpoints, purposes and themes in a variety of related texts.
- Analyse in depth and detail writers' use of literary, rhetorical and grammatical features and their effects on different readers.
- Discuss their own and others' reading, take account of others' views of what they have read, express informed opinions and make recommendations.
- Develop interpretations of texts, supporting points with detailed textual evidence.
- Analyse the structures of different poetical forms. Demonstrate understanding of impact of vocabulary and meaning through the selection of appropriate quotations.
- Analyse how texts are shaped by audiences' preferences and opinions.
- Develop an understanding of how ideas, experiences and values are portrayed in texts from different cultures and traditions.

Non-fiction

- Select from a range of strategies and use the most appropriate ways to locate, retrieve and compare information and ideas from a variety of texts.
- Make notes using a range of different note-making formats and approaches (including mind-mapping and tabulating) when researching a variety of media.
- Analyse how meaning, including attitude, can be conveyed in different ways according to structural and organisational choices.
- Demonstrate understanding of the features of a wider range of non-fiction and media texts, e.g. travel writing, advertising material.
- Recognise ways in which writers use different registers and other methods to communicate with their audience.
- Understand how words are used for different purposes, e.g. to create atmosphere, to persuade the reader.
- Understand the differences between formal and informal style.
- Use a repertoire of reading strategies to analyse and explore different layers of meaning within texts, including bias.
- Analyse how meaning is conveyed differently according to the form, layout and presentation selected by the writer for specific purposes.

Stage 9

Writing

Fiction

- Link a selection of ideas and planning choices explicitly to a clear sense of task, purpose and audience.
- Use the editing, proofreading and reviewing process, and revise as necessary, to evaluate the effectiveness and likely impact on the reader.
- Select the most appropriate text format, layout and presentation to create impact and engage the reader.
- Shape and craft language within paragraphs, and structure ideas between them, to achieve particular effects with purpose and audience in mind.
- Establish and sustain character, point of view and voice in their fiction writing.
- Begin to develop a range of registers and a personal voice.
- Add detail, tension and climax to their narratives by shaping the reader's response through conscious choices from a wide and ambitious vocabulary.
- Understand ways to deploy range of formal and informal styles to enhance and emphasise meaning and create a wide range of effects.
- Understand the ways in which writers modify and adapt phrase and sentence structures and conventions to create effects, and how to make such adaptations when appropriate in their own writing.

- Deploy a range of punctuation and grammatical choices to enhance and emphasise meaning, aid cohesion and create a wide range of effects.

Non-fiction

- Establish and sustain a clear and logical viewpoint through the analysis and selection of convincing evidence, opinions and appropriate information.
- Write to analyse, review and comment.
- Write persuasively, e.g. in letters or in the script of a commercial.
- Write arguments with a sense of linked progression.

Stage 9

Speaking and listening

- Use speaking and listening as a method of preparing for written assignments, exploring a wide range of subject matter with precision and effect.
- Make increasingly significant contributions both as solo speakers and as members of groups.
- Use speaking and listening to build up increasing personal confidence, managing and manipulating the content of their presentation.
- Question and respond to others, shaping the direction and content of their talk with well-judged contributions.
- Work in groups for a variety of purposes, such as taking decisions and planning and organisation.
- Explore complex ideas and issues in drama, establishing roles and applying dramatic approaches with confidence.
- Evaluate meaning and impact of a range of features in own and others' discourse, including broadcast media.

University of Cambridge International Examinations
1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0)1223 553554 Fax: +44 (0)1223 553558
international@cie.org.uk www.cie.org.uk

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