



CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

Language Assessment

Part of the University of Cambridge

Raising English Teaching Standards in Schools

Client: Hebei Education Department

Country: China



Examinations from Cambridge English Language Assessment have been chosen by the Hebei Education Department (HED) in China as part of a language-learning programme designed to improve education and career opportunities for students.

The HED programme aims to provide a highly effective supplement to China's national English curriculum and uses Cambridge English exams, together with collaborative impact studies, to raise standards of teaching and learning.

Cambridge English: Key for Schools (KET) and Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for Schools were integrated into the curriculum of six pilot schools in the Hebei Province. This included both primary schools (Grades 1-6, age 6-11) and middle schools (Grades 7-9, ages 12-14).

In addition to Cambridge English for Schools exams, teacher training has also been enhanced with the use of our *Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT)*. Teachers can study for and take *TKT* before they teach preparation courses for Cambridge English exams.

Since the pilot study began more than 4,300 teachers and students have taken a Cambridge English exam or teaching qualification. Feedback so far has been very positive, as shown in a joint impact study which presented its first findings in 2011. The study focused on the exams, but also aimed to ascertain attitudes, perceptions and motivations relating to the wider programme, using data from all six schools in the pilot scheme. Results show improved language competence, as well as increased confidence and motivation among teachers, who all appreciate the support and training that the programme has delivered.

HED officials noted that the students' English levels and comprehension skills have been greatly improved, and they received good results in their entrance exams.

Phase two of the impact study is now underway. Since the impact study first began, HED has expanded the pilot programme and now 16 schools are using our exams.

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