

C1 Advanced Overview of the Writing Paper

Aims of the lesson	To familiarise students with the content of the Advanced Writing Paper
Time needed	45 minutes
Materials required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom Handout 1 and 2 (1 per student) access to the Cambridge website with information for students or a practice test book for the revised 2015 exam.

- 1 Ask students to brainstorm in pairs/small groups what types of texts they usually write for pleasure or for business/study (e.g. email, letter etc.), either in English or their own language. Collect some feedback, writing the different text types on the board as a spidergram.

Timing: 3 mins

- 2 Now ask students how often they write each different text type. Ask them, for example, which they write most/least.

Timing: 2 mins

- 3 Divide students into pairs of student As and student Bs. Give out **Classroom Handout 1**. Ask students to work in pairs and look at **exercise one**, with student A asking student B questions. They may use a practice test or access to the website to help them. These basic questions will give them useful information about such things as timing, number of questions, how much to write and the distribution of marks. Check the answers together as a group (**see Answer Key**).

Timing: 10 mins

- 4 Tell students that they are now going to focus on Part 1 of the writing paper, which is a completely new task-type. Ask students to look at **exercise two** (in pairs or small groups) and a sample task from the practice test book or website. Give them five minutes to do this. Check the answers as a whole group (**see Answer Key**).

Timing: 10 mins

- 5 Give **Classroom Handout 2** to students. Look at the first type, which has been done as an example and discuss with students. Students should then complete the rest of the table in pairs. Allow them 15 minutes to do this. Check the answers together (**see Answer Key**).

Timing: 20 mins

Classroom Handout 1

Exercise 1

Student A Questions

- 1 How many parts are there in the Writing paper?
- 2 Where do we write the answers?
- 3 Is each part worth different marks?
- 4 Is there a question based on set book?
- 5 What sort of things do we have to write?

Student B Questions

- 1 How much time do we have for the Writing paper?
- 2 Do we have a choice in both parts?
- 3 How many questions are there in Part 2?
- 4 How many words do we have to write?
- 5 Is it a problem if I write too many or too few words?

Exercise 2

Decide if these statements referring to Part 1 of the Writing paper are **TRUE** or **FALSE**.

1. Part 1 is a new type of task never seen before in the C1 Advanced exam.
2. There is always a discursive essay on a particular topic.
3. You will be given a set of notes in bullet point form on the topic.
4. You must only select two of the bullet points given.
5. You are given short opinions related to the bullet points. You are allowed to use these opinions in your essay.
6. In Part 1 you must learn how to highlight the relevant issues on a particular topic and support an argument by giving further points and reasons.

Classroom Handout 2

Exercise 3

Type of writing	Who usually reads it?	What style/format is it often written in? (What's in it?)
A report	Usually a superior, a boss or college Principal	Factual information, suggestions or recommendations are clearly organised and may include headings.
A proposal		
A letter		
An essay		
A review		

Answers to Classroom Handout 1 and 2

Exercise 1 A Questions

1. Two
2. They must write their answers on the lined pages following each question. They may use the blank pages in the question booklet to make notes.

Tell students the following: they should write within the grey borders to ensure that all of their answers can be seen when papers are scanned before marking. Point out that students need to write in pen, not pencil, so that their answers are visible when scanned.

3. No, each part carries equal marks.
4. No, there is no longer a set-text question.
5. An essay, a letter, a proposal, a report, a review,

Exercise 1 B Questions

1. 1 hour 30 minutes
2. No, Part 1 is one compulsory task. However, in Part 2 you can choose.
3. Three: questions 2, 3, 4
4. In Part 1 and Part 2 they have to write 220 – 260 words.
- 5 If they write significantly fewer words, it is likely that they have not successfully completed the task. Overlong pieces may involve irrelevancies, repetition of ideas, poor organisation and have a negative effect on the target reader.

Exercise 2 Answers

ALL these statements referring to Part 1 of the Writing paper are **TRUE**.

1. Part 1 is a new type of task never seen before in the C1 Advanced exam.
2. There is always a discursive essay on a particular topic.
3. You will be given a set of notes in bullet point form on the topic.
4. You must only select two of the bullet points given.
5. You are given short opinions related to the bullet points. You are allowed to use these opinions in your essay. *Although you can use the opinions given, make sure you highlight to your students that they must NOT copy the exact wording. They can use the opinions given but must express them in their own words.*
6. In Part 1 you must learn how to highlight the relevant issues on a particular topic and to support an argument by giving further points and reasons.

Exercise 3 Answers

Type of writing	Who usually reads it?	What style/format is it often written in? (What's in it?)
A report	Usually a superior, a boss or college Principal	Factual information, suggestions or recommendations are clearly organised and may include headings.
A proposal	Usually a superior, a boss or college principal	Suggestions supported by factual information, in order to persuade the reader of a course of action. It should be clearly organised and may include headings.
A letter	The reader will be specified in the exam e.g. the editor of a newspaper, the director of an international company or a friend	Letters may be narrative, factual etc. It depends on the question. Letters should have an opening salutation, clear paragraphing and closing phrasing.
An essay	A teacher	An essay should present an argument and give reasons for this. Paragraphing, using linkers and good opening and closing paragraphs are essential.
A review	Usually the reader of a magazine	There should be a good description of the event etc. and the writer's personal opinion should be clear. There should also be a recommendation to the reader.