Cambridge English
Transforming Language Education

Supporting the delivery of English examinations

Client: Departments of Education and Training in Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, Can Tho, Lam Dong and Ben Tre
Country: Vietnam

Cambridge English Language Assessment is working with five Vietnamese Departments of Education and Training (DOETs) to support the promotion and delivery of Cambridge English examinations.

In order to improve language learning opportunities for students - and ensure that learning meets international assessment standards - Cambridge English Language Assessment is working with five DOETs across Vietnam to deliver a range of Cambridge English examinations.

The initiative began with a research project undertaken with DOET HCM (Ho Chi Minh City), which used mock tests and classroom observations to establish the English language ability of local primary school children.

Following this first phase, in 2006 we signed a MoU with DOET HCM for the delivery of *Cambridge English: Young Learners* exams (formerly Cambridge Young Learners English (YLE) tests), *Cambridge English: Key* (formerly Key English Test KET), and *Cambridge English: Preliminary* (formerly Preliminary English Test PET) for students at state primary schools and language centres, with DOET handling candidate registration and exam administration. We also helped DOET recruit and train oral examiners, and provided teacher support for schools preparing for the exam, as well as training local staff with exam invigilation.

The programme has been such a success that since November 2010 *Cambridge English: Young Learners* exams have become compulsory for primary school students in the Intensive English Programme whereby students at the end of Grade 2, 4 and 5 have to take Starters, Movers and Flyers respectively. The *Cambridge English: Starters* test (set at level A1 on the Common European Framework of Reference) is also now used by Vietnam's Ministry of Education as a benchmark for Mainstream Programme students at the end of Grade 5. Since 2010, over 170,000 students have taken a *Cambridge English: Young Learners* exam, with 60,000 candidates taking the test in the academic year 2012-13.

We are now delivering Cambridge examinations in five provincial DOETs, in Ho Chi Minh City, Dong Nai, Can Tho, Lam Dong, and Ben Tre. Our exams are used by primary and by secondary school students who are taking *Cambridge English: Key (KET), Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) and Cambridge English: First (FCE)* examinations, thereby extending access to internationally recognised exams to various provinces in Vietnam.

In addition, *Cambridge English: First* is now being used by more than 30 regional Departments of Education and Training (DOETs) as a benchmark test to establish the level of language ability of English teachers working in local schools. Vietnamese teachers are required to achieve test results equalling B2 (or above) on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) with those unable to reach this level undergoing further training.

Cambridge English: First has been used by the national Ministry of Education and Training for several years, and to date more than 16,000 teachers have taken the examination.

"Cambridge English Language Assessment is working with five DOETs across Vietnam delivering examinations to primary school students in state schools and language centres"

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