

English for refugees and marginalised communities

Jesuit Worldwide Learning

Global



Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL) is using the Cambridge English Placement Test (CEPT) and Linguaskill Reading and Listening modules – both from Cambridge Assessment English – to place and then assess students from marginalised societies enrolling onto its Global English Language Programme (GEL). The two tests will help ensure students have the best chance of gaining the English skills needed to access JWL's tertiary study curriculum and, in turn, greater employment opportunities.

JWL brings high-quality tertiary learning to communities worldwide which have been marginalised by poverty, location, lack of opportunity, conflict or forced displacement. Access to JWL's tertiary curriculum requires appropriate English skills and to develop these skills, around 2,000 students are currently enrolled on JWL's CEFR-based GEL course, delivered in over 20 JWL centres – many located in inaccessible regions including Afghanistan and Iraq.

To ensure students gained maximum benefit from the GEL programme, JWL wanted to introduce cost-effective tests which could accurately place students in the right classes, and then assess student ability at key stages during the course. Flexibility was vital as JWL centres wanted to test students on site and at any time. CEPT and Linguaskill proved to be the ideal solution. CEPT is an online, on-demand test which quickly assesses current ability in order to accurately place a student in the most appropriate class. Linguaskill – also online and on demand – is specifically designed to assess the abilities of student groups, using an adaptive testing model designed to increase assessment speed and the delivery of results, thereby improving the testing experience.

JWL is currently rolling out both tests across its centres, using Linguaskill to assess its own teachers before testing students. Initial feedback has been extremely positive, especially the seamless delivery of online testing to centres in multiple, often remote locations where internet connectivity can be challenging. JWL is committed to expanding GEL and its partnership with Cambridge English – it will continue to use CEPT and Linguaskill to assess student ability, and also plans to introduce Linguaskill into its teacher recruitment programme.

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“We had very clear needs. Linguaskill and the Cambridge English Placement Test were the perfect fit – they are online, flexible and backed by the globally recognised academic strength of the Cambridge brand.”

Susanna Ablewhite,
Global English Language Programme Manager,
Jesuit Worldwide Learning