

Assessing English proficiency in the oil industry

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

United Arab
Emirates



B1 Preliminary from Cambridge Assessment English is being used by the flagship training facility of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to measure English language proficiency among staff.

ADNOC, a state-owned organisation, is one of the world's top 10 oil and gas companies producing more than 2.7 million barrels of oil a day, with additional interests in transportation, shipping, marketing and distribution. The company invests heavily in training, a commitment embodied in the ADNOC Technical Institute, a flagship vocational training college which trains UAE nationals on the skills required to work within the company.

In 2009, the Technical Institute decided to use B1 Preliminary as a measure of English language proficiency; Peter Hardcastle, Advisor – Curriculum and Assessment at the ADNOC Technical Institute explains: 'There was a large demand in the oil industry for a stable measure of language proficiency and B1 Preliminary fitted the bill. As a result, ADNOC decided to use the exam at its flagship training facility, as well as in some of its oil and gas operating companies.'

The use of B1 Preliminary proved highly successful and as a result, the Technical Institute decided to offer English language testing to more candidates, and also to expand the range of Cambridge English Qualifications on offer. As a result, employees were able to study for A2 Key. This basic level qualification is designed to ensure a good start to learning English, and also provides ideal preparation for the intermediate level B1 Preliminary, which focuses on developing English skills suitable for work, study and travel.

Candidate numbers continue to rise at the ADNOC Technical Institute, with the result that 1,500 employees have now taken Cambridge English Qualifications since 2009, with 500 candidates sitting tests in 2012 alone.

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Peter Hardcastle, Advisor – Curriculum and Assessment, ADNOC Technical Institute