

Overview of the B1 Preliminary Writing Paper – Teacher’s notes

Description

To give learners an overview of the organisation and requirements of the test and develop global strategies for approaching it.

Time required:	50 minutes
Materials required:	▪ B1 Preliminary Handbook for teachers Writing overview (page 20) ▪ Student handout ▪ Sample papers (enough for the class) (any sample paper will work, there is one in the handbook on page 24)
Aims:	▪ to familiarise learners with the B1 Preliminary Writing test ▪ to develop learners’ strategies and approaches for the test ▪ to develop knowledge of task types

Procedure

1. Brainstorm what learners know about B1 Preliminary Writing. What task types do they expect to meet in this exam? How long do they think the test is? How many questions are there? How long should learners spend on each one? Write any suggestions on the board without commenting directly on ideas.
2. Project the **writing overview** from the B1 Preliminary Handbook and read aloud or get students to read sections. Ask students to compare their ideas on the board with the overview in pairs.
3. Elicit the most important points, removing any incorrect information from the board and refining the information until a concise summary remains. Ask learners to copy this summary into their notebooks.
4. Hand out the **sample paper** and the **handout**. Learners should work in pairs to decide if the 10 sentences in the worksheet are true or false according to the sample paper and their opinions.
5. Give out answers, allowing learners time to self-correct or question the meaning of any ideas.
6. Allow learners time to discuss which questions they would find most difficult and any strategies they would have for doing the exam. Students work in pairs or small groups then compare with the whole class. Highlight/praise any good practice such as not spending too long on one question, carefully reading the question, and planning an answer.
7. To finish off, wipe all writing from the board and get learners to clear their desks before asking them to reconstruct the summary created in step 3 by calling out their ideas to be written onto the board.

B1 Preliminary Writing overview

Answer key

Student handout

1. False – learner must write an email
2. True
3. False – candidates must respond to all the points in the notes
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. False – candidates are given the first sentence of a story
8. True
9. True
10. True – Content, Communicative Achievement, Organisation and Language
11. False

B1 Preliminary Writing overview**Student handout**

Read through the B1 Preliminary sample paper and decide if the following statements are True or False:

1. Candidates can choose whether to answer Writing Part 1 with an email or a story.
2. Candidates must respond to four content points in an email in a response of around 100 words.
3. Candidates do not have to use all the notes in the Part 1 email.
4. Question 1 tests the candidate's ability to write functions such as agreeing/disagreeing, giving an opinion, offering or explaining.
5. Candidates should aim to use a range of appropriate tenses, expressions and vocabulary, even if these contain some minor mistakes. It's important for candidates to show the full range of their language ability.
6. In Part 2, candidates choose either an article or a story. They must write around 100 words.
7. For the story, candidates are given the last sentence of the story.
8. Candidates should choose the task which best suits them and their interests.
9. Candidates should consider the topic as well as the language demands, for example, vocabulary, in the two questions before choosing.
10. Candidate answers are assessed according to four separate scales, each one focusing on a specific aspect of performance.
11. The Part 1 email carries more marks than the Part 2 task.