Cambridge English Qualifications

B1 Preliminary Listening overview – Teacher's notes

Description

This lesson includes a brainstorm session on students' general experience of listening tests, followed by the teacher reading a displayed copy of the Listening overview on page 37 of the B1 Preliminary handbook. Students are free to ask any questions at this stage. They then work in pairs to complete a True/False worksheet to establish how much of the overview they have absorbed, followed by a recap to establish these points further.

Time required:	30 minutes
Materials required:	▪ B1 Preliminary Handbook for teachers digital copy or page 37 scanned into a PowerPoint presentation or similar ▪ Student handout ▪ Sample Listening test (optional)
Aims:	▪ To establish format and features of B1 Preliminary Listening test ▪ To discuss students' existing knowledge of listening tests and enable them to approach the test with confidence

Procedure

1. Write the following questions on the board asks learner to discuss in pairs:
   - **What English listening tests have you done before? When did you do them?**
   - **How many parts were there?**
   - **What types of questions do you remember answering?**
   - **How do you think the B1 Preliminary Listening test will be similar/different? What do you already know about the B1 Preliminary listening test?**

   Give students 5 minutes to discuss with a partner and then elicit some ideas with the whole class without correcting misconceptions. Note down any ideas on the board.

2. Show the projected overview from page 37 of the B1 Preliminary **handbook**. If no projection is available, hand out copies of overview or write on the board. Teacher then asks students to notice which of their ideas were right/wrong about the B1 Preliminary Listening test. Check this whole class, wiping any wrong ideas from the board and highlighting correct ones until a concise summary is left on the board.
   Timing: 10 mins

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3. Turn off projection or tell learners to cover overview handouts, then distribute the **handout** and group students in pairs. Students should discuss their ideas about why a particular answer is true or false from their memory of the overview.
   Timing: 5–10 mins

4. Manage feedback of the True/False exercise, eliciting from the whole class whether a pair is right: e.g. 'Pablo and Ahmed think that's False – do you agree? Why not?' In this way the correct features should be established.

5. Regroup learners into different groups, wipe the board and them to put away any handouts. Students should have a quick recap of what they remember about the B1 Preliminary Listening test.

6. Teacher elicits these ideas in a rapid-fire manner to build up some features on the board.

7. If possible, learners could follow up by doing a full B1 Preliminary listening test.

Suggested follow-up activity

Learners are given the relevant link to the Cambridge Assessment English B1 Preliminary page and must make their own notes about the Listening test.

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Answer key

1. False – a monologue is just one person talking
2. False – there are only 4 parts
3. True
4. True
5. False – this part is multiple-choice and you choose the correct answer to identify attitudes and opinions
6. True – you do not lose any marks for a wrong answer
7. False – there are no examples given
8. False – Part 1 is worth 7 marks and the others are all worth 6

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Student handout

Are the following sentences True or False – decide with a partner:

1. A monologue is two people talking
2. There are 5 sections in the B1 Preliminary Listening test
3. When completing the gaps in Listening Part 3 you should consider if the word you have written makes sense and is grammatically correct as part of the whole sentence.
4. In Part 1 you need to listen for specific details in order to identify the right picture/visual information.
5. In Part 4 you have to write down the specific opinions of both speakers.
6. If you are not sure of the correct answer, it is better to write something rather than leave that question blank.
7. There are examples given before each exercise.
8. The number of questions is the same as the number of marks.

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Paper 3:

Listening tasks

about 30 mins

(plus 6 minutes to transfer answers)

Part	Number of questions	Number of marks	Task types	What do candidates have to do?
1	7	7	3-option multiple choice	Identify key information in **seven short monologues or dialogues** and choose the correct visual.
2	6	6	3-option multiple choice	**Listen to six short dialogues** and understand the gist of each.
3	6	6	Gap fill	**Listen to a monologue** and complete six gaps.
4	6	6	3-option multiple choice	**Listen to an interview** for a detailed understanding of meaning and to identify attitudes and opinions.
Total	25	25		

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