



Cambridge O Level English Language (1123): introduction & redeveloping syllabuses from Cambridge International

Video Transcript

Hazel Carmichael:

Welcome to our video about changes to Cambridge O Level English Language. The new syllabus is released in September 2021 for examination from 2024. We'll begin with some introductions. My name is Hazel Carmichael and I'm the Head of English in the Qualifications Development team here in Cambridge. Jo, over to you.

Jo Nice:

I'm Jo Nice and I'm a Development Manager in the Qualifications Development team.

Peter Johnston:

My name is Peter Johnston and I'm the Group Manager for English in the Assessment Division.

Kathryn Davies:

I'm Kathryn Davies and I'm a Product Manager in the Assessment team.

Hazel Carmichael:

During this video, we will look at three things:

- Firstly, the importance of updating syllabuses.
- Secondly, an overview of the changes to O Level English Language.
- Thirdly, the support available for teaching this new syllabus.

We regularly review our syllabuses and assessments to keep improving the educational experience for students. We do this in a number of ways:

- We listen and respond to teacher feedback. For example, teachers may suggest adjusting a particular task to make it more relevant or useful for students.
- We review the content so that it remains current and up to date. For example, in some subjects, we revise topic lists so that they are relevant for students and also.
- We ensure continued validity and reliability so that our assessments test what we say they will test, and our marking criteria produce the same results when candidates of the same ability sit the test year-on-year.
- We support best educational practice by keeping up with research and developments in education.

- Lastly, we consider progression carefully. We think about the Cambridge Pathway, and the skills, knowledge and understanding that students need to progress from IGCSE and O Level to A Level and beyond.

The Cambridge syllabus development is a rigorous process. It involves a great deal of consultation with stakeholders, such as teachers and subject experts. Each qualification development takes around two years to complete.

We started work on the O Level English Language development in 2018. We consulted with schools and also ran teacher forums. We asked for feedback in the early stages of the development.

From October 2019 to March 2020, we organised and ran face-to-face and virtual workshops with teachers.

From April 2020 to August 2021, we consolidated the feedback to inform the creation of the syllabus and specimen assessment materials.

In September 2021 the syllabus and specimen assessment materials are available on our public website as well as the School Support Hub. The first examination of this syllabus is in 2024.

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