

B2 First Overview of the Writing Paper

Aims of the lesson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to give students an overview of the format of the B2 First Writing paper (Paper 2) 2. to raise students' awareness of the different text types found in Paper 2 .
Time needed	35 - 40 minutes
Materials required	Classroom Handout 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8 (one per pair of student) Classroom Handout 4, 5 cut up (one per group of 2/3 students) Classroom Handout 7 and 8 (one per student)

- 1 Ask students to brainstorm in pairs/small groups what types of texts they usually write for pleasure or for business/study (e.g. email, letter, etc.), either in English or their own language. Collect some feedback, writing the different text types on the board as a spidergram.
Timing: 3 mins
- 2 Now ask students how often they write each different text type. Ask them, for example, which they write most/least.
Timing: 2 mins
- 3 Divide students into two halves (A and B) and then put the As in pairs/small groups, and Bs in pairs/small groups. First, give the As a copy of the Part 1 task (**Classroom Handout 1**) and Bs a copy of Part 2 tasks (**Classroom Handout 2**). Then give each student a copy of **Classroom Handout 3**. Ask each pair to discuss the questions in relation to their part (Part 1 or Part 2).
Timing: 5 mins
- 4 Now put the students into new pairs, As with Bs. They compare their answers in relation to both parts and discuss the main differences.
Timing: 3 mins
- 5 Check the answers in class, and deal with any queries. Go through the different types of task focus.
Timing: 5 mins
- 6 Elicit/Explain which of the text types are in the exam. These are: letter, email, article, essay, report, review.
Timing: 2 mins
- 7 Tell students that they are going to look at some opening excerpts from each of the different written texts that are found in the exam.
- 8 Divide the class into pairs and give each pair a copy of **Classroom Handout 4 and 5** cut up. Ask students to match the excerpts to the headings and discuss which features of each helped them to decide.
Timing: 5 mins

9 Check answers in class.

Timing: 2 mins

10 Hand out **Classroom Handout 6**. Ask the students to complete the texts with the words in the box. (See Answer Key).

Timing: 5 mins

11 Check answers in class.

Timing: 2 mins

Suggested Follow- up Activity

Give students a simplified version of the mark scheme from the *Cambridge English: First Handbook* and a copy of each of the sample answers which are also in the Handbook, with the 'Marks awarded' comment blanked out.

In a large class, give each student/pair one sample answer each, otherwise give 2 - 3 answers to each student/pair. Go through the simplified mark scheme in class and then ask them to read their sample answer and predict which mark their answer would receive.

Ask them to justify their answers, before telling them which mark each was awarded

Classroom Handout 1

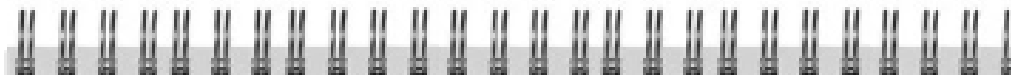
Student A

Part 1

You must answer this question. Write your answer in 140 – 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet.

- 1 In your English class you have been talking about the environment. Now, your English teacher has asked you to write an essay.

Write an essay using all the notes and give reasons for your point of view.



Every country in the world has problems with pollution and damage to the environment.
Do you think these problems can be solved?

Notes

Write about:

1. transport
2. rivers and seas
3. (your own idea)

Classroom Handout 2

Student B

Part 2

Write an answer to one of the questions 2 – 4 in this part. Write your answer in 140 – 190 words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer sheet.

- 2 You see this announcement in your college English-language magazine.

Book reviews wanted

Have you read a book in which the main character behaved in a surprising way?

Write us a review of the book, explaining what the main character did and why it was surprising. Tell us whether or not you would recommend this book to other people.

The best reviews will be published in the magazine.

Write your review.

- 3 You see this announcement on an English-language website.

Articles wanted

The most useful thing I have ever learned.

What is the most useful thing you have learned?
Who did you learn it from? Why is it useful?

Write us an article answering these questions.

We will publish the best articles on our website.

Write your article.

- 4 You have received this email from your English-speaking friend David.

From: David

Subject: touring holiday

Some college friends of mine are visiting your area soon for a week's touring holiday. They would like to travel around and learn about your local area and its history.

Can you tell me about some of the places they could visit? What's the best way to travel around – car, bike or coach?

Thanks,

David

Write your email.

Classroom Handout 3

How much do you know about the Cambridge First Writing paper?

There are **two parts** to the paper.

Your teacher will give you **either** a Part 1 or Part 2.

Look at the exam paper and answer the following questions:

1 How many questions do you have to answer?

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2 How many questions can you choose from?

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3 What type of text should you write?

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4 How many words are you allowed to write?

.....

5 Is there any extra information, apart from the question, to help you write your answer?

.....

Now compare your answers with a student who was looking at a different Part.

What are the main differences between the two parts?

Look at the table below, showing the different text types that are found on the Cambridge First Writing paper.

Which of the following text types were on the sample paper you looked at? Discuss this in pairs.

Part 1	Part 2
Essay	Article Letter Email Report Review

In **Part 1** the task is compulsory. The task might focus on comparing, describing, explaining, expressing opinions, justifying, recommending or suggesting.

Classroom Handout 4 ✂ **Cut up into the separate text types**

Article

Email

Essay

Letter

Review

Report

Classroom Handout 5 ✂ **Cut into the separate parts**

A. Dear Andrew,

How are you doing?

B. Keeping Healthy In Bratislava

This report includes advice on how to stay in good shape while living in Bratislava, with practical suggestions on where to eat and where to do sport.

C. To: Sara Martins

Subject: Restaurant

I just received your message and.....

D. I recently went to the cinema to see a film. It was the best film I have ever seen.

E. Top Teacher Tania!

I'll never forget the first day I met Tania. She looked at me and said, "You must be Pablo". I really felt that she was talking to me, and I knew my eyes were shining with happiness. From that moment on, she was my favourite teacher.

F. It is easy to claim that country life is better than city life, but a balanced approach must consider both sides.

Classroom Handout 6

Read the following texts and complete with the words from the boxes.

Article

comment engage eye-catching opinion

The main purpose of an article is to interest and _____ the reader, so there should be some _____ or _____, and an _____ heading will help.

Email

situation reader grammatically accurate punctuation

An email is written in response to the situation outlined. Candidates should write _____ correct sentences with _____ spelling and _____ in a style suited to the _____ and target _____.

Essay

teacher conclusion development argument issues topic

An essay is usually written for a _____. It should be well organised, with an introduction, clear _____ and an appropriate _____. The main purpose of this task is the development of an _____ and/or discussion of _____ around a certain _____.

Letter

organisation known reader individual

An informal letter, which would be written to a _____ reader, e.g. a penfriend, and would usually be intended to interest the _____ in some way. A formal letter would be written to an _____ or an _____, e.g. to apply for work.

Report

sections neutral headings formal well-organised

A report may be _____ or _____ in style, but the style should be consistent. It should be _____, with clear _____. Section _____ can help make the report easy to read.

Review

website opinion newspaper describe

A review is usually written for an English language magazine, _____ or _____. The main purpose is to _____ and express a personal _____ about something which the writer has experienced (e.g. a film, a product, a holiday, a website, etc.).

Answer Keys

Handout 3

Q no.	Part 1	Part 2
1	1	1
2	1 (this is a compulsory task)	3
3	essay	review, article, email
4	140 – 190 words	140 – 190 words
5	The notes - candidates must include all content points in their answer, and expand them where appropriate with relevant ideas and information.	Yes – input material is specified in no more than 70 words, and should help students determine the target reader of the text and the required register.

Handouts 4 and 5

Article: E	Email: C	Essay: F	Letter: A	Report: B	Review: D
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Handout 6

Article: engage, comment, opinion, eye-catching

The main purpose of an article is to interest and engage the reader, so there should be some opinion or comment, and an eye-catching title will help.

Email: grammatically, accurate, punctuation, situation, reader

An email is written in response to the situation outlined in the input material. Candidates should be aware that they will be expected to write grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style suited to the situation and target reader.

Essay: teacher, development, conclusion, argument, issues, topic

An essay is usually written for a teacher and may be written as a follow up to a class activity. It should be well-organised, with an introduction, clear development and an appropriate conclusion. The main purpose of this task is the development of an argument and/or discussion of issues surrounding a certain topic.

Letter: known, reader, individual, organisation

This is an informal letter, which would be written to a known reader, e.g. a pen friend, and would usually be intended to interest the reader in some way. A formal letter would be written to an individual or an organisation, e.g. to apply for part-time work.

Report: neutral, formal, well-organised, sections, headings

A report may be neutral or formal in style, but the style should be consistent. It should be well-organised, with clear sections. Section headings can help to make the report easy to read.

Review: website, newspaper, describe, opinion

A review is usually written for an English language magazine, newspaper or website. The main purpose is to describe and express a personal opinion about something which the writer has experienced (e.g. a film, a product, a holiday, a website etc.).