

Last Minute Considerations for Cambridge exams

Reading

- Scan for key information – be focused, avoid getting lost and repeating efforts
- Do the easy ones first
- For multiple choice – decide answer in the text before looking at the options.
- Completion of gapped text - links are both thematic and linguistic – underline words like ‘however’, ‘his’, ‘this’, ‘it’ to help make the right connections

Writing

- Answer the question
- Be patient with the plan. Include all details in key word form – avoid thinking of new ideas when writing
- Use topic sentences to start body paragraphs and link ideas together within paragraphs
- Give examples to support ideas
- Have headings where necessary (article, report, proposal, review)
- Use the correct tone – is it somebody you know or not? Younger or older readers?
- Vary language – avoid repeating key words and grammatical structures
- Check for punctuation, spelling and basic grammar mistakes. What are your bad habits?

Listening

- Use the time between exercises to look at the next task
- Prepare to listen – anticipate answers
- Use both listenings – first to understand (don’t stop listening), to do the easy answers and perhaps make notes. Second to focus on the more difficult ones
- Text completion task – make sure that spelling and grammar are correct

Use of English

- Read texts before starting to do answers – understanding the context is vital
- Do easy ones first – don’t waste time
- Word formation – Remember about positive/negative, plurals/singular forms
- Transformation sentences – check carefully for meaning, verb tenses, articles, prepositions

Speaking

- Answer the precise question – compare not describe
- Interact with and respond to your partner where necessary – only interrupt politely
- Use comparative and speculating language
- Support ideas with examples

