

Lesson 8: Master English Writing Skills with Cambridge IGCSE Practice

Learning Objectives

- Analyse language and structure to explain how writers create effects.
- Plan and write directed responses with clear audience, purpose, and tone.
- Summarise efficiently using selection, transformation, and concision.
- Craft descriptive/narrative compositions with control over imagery and paragraphing.

Materials Needed

- Cambridge IGCSE® First Language English: Language & Skills Practice Book
- Notebook, pens, and highlighters for annotation
- Timer for 10–25 minute focused blocks
- Rubric printout and vocabulary journal for reflection

5-Day Exam-Skills Cycle

- 1 Day 1 – Close Reading: Annotate a short passage, identifying 3–4 key language choices. Write brief notes on their effects.
- 2 Day 2 – Directed Writing: Write a response using appropriate tone and audience. Avoid copying directly from the passage.
- 3 Day 3 – Summary: Create a 10-point note grid and transform it into a concise 120–150 word summary.
- 4 Day 4 – Composition: Write a descriptive or narrative piece focusing on structure and imagery.
- 5 Day 5 – Edit & Rubric Review: Self-assess against criteria and improve one paragraph for clarity, tone, and vocabulary.

Differentiation

- Support: Provide model paragraphs, highlight sentence stems, and simplify tasks.
- On-Level: Encourage independent planning and peer feedback using a checklist.
- Advanced: Challenge learners to integrate motifs and apply tonal shifts while maintaining clarity.

Assessment & Reflection

- Weekly timed writing task across varied skill areas (summary, composition, etc.).
- Rubric-based feedback emphasizing Content, Style, and Accuracy.
- Maintain a vocabulary journal to track and apply new expressive words.

Extensions & Family Connection

- Create a personal 'Effects Bank' highlighting examples of figurative language and sentence craft.
- Record a one-minute oral summary to develop concise speaking and audience awareness.
- Compare two extracts with different purposes (e.g., news vs. fiction) to explore register and tone.

Wrap-Up

This lesson helps students develop analytical precision and expressive control. Short, focused routines ensure progress without burnout—ideal for homeschool high schoolers preparing for formal exams.