



Case study

Profession: Prospective university student (English Literature & History) — Swiss-French

Objective: Achieve Cambridge C1 Advanced; strengthen grammar, academic reading, and writing skills under exam conditions

Outcome: Passed C1 exam; gained confidence in academic English; ready to study English Literature and History at university

1. Profile / Background

Age / Nationality: 20, Swiss-French

Current Level of English: Upper Intermediate (B2)

Previous Learning Experience: Studied English at school with some additional formal training.

Occupation / Area of Study: Prospective university student in English Literature and History.

2. Specific Needs and Objectives

Language Skills Focus:

- Grammar and sentence accuracy
- Reading comprehension and writing
- Exam techniques and strategy

Reasons for Learning English:

- To pass the Cambridge C1 Advanced exam
- To gain admission to an English-speaking university program in Literature and History

Short-Term Objectives:

- Improve grammar precision and exam performance
- Develop efficient reading and writing techniques under time constraints

Long-Term Goals:

- Enroll in and complete a university degree in English
 - Acquire academic English fluency for study and research
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3. Method

Tutors' Approach:

- A diagnostic phase identified common grammatical errors and exam-specific weaknesses
- The course design emphasized targeted preparation for each paper in the C1 exam

Instructional Strategy:

- An exam-focused, skills-based approach was used
- Practice drills emphasized strategy, grammar correction, and writing precision

Materials and Resources Used:

- Cambridge English practice exams
- Model essays, grammar review sheets, and literary articles

Classroom Setting:

- Small group sessions supported by one-on-one feedback
- Emphasis on individualized attention for writing and grammar practice

Feedback and Assessment:

- Regular mock exams with feedback on timing and structure
 - Detailed writing correction and performance tracking
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4. Content**Examples of Content Used in Lessons:**

- C1 Use of English papers and listening comprehension activities
- Structured essay planning and editing workshops
- Practice with academic-style texts and vocabulary

Skills Developed:

- Improved grammar and accuracy
- Better planning and time management in writing tasks
- Strengthened reading and listening comprehension

Specific Exercises or Activities:

- Error correction drills, timed writing tasks, mock speaking tests
- Use of literary texts to introduce higher-level vocabulary and stylistic awareness

Real-Life Contexts / Materials Used:

- Authentic academic readings
- Practice papers based on previous exams
- Literary discussions to build thematic vocabulary

5. Progress

Challenges Faced:

- Struggled with fossilized grammar mistakes
- Found adapting to time pressure in the exam format challenging

Learning Difficulties:

- Needed to overcome hesitation in writing quickly and accurately
- Required consistent correction to consolidate grammar structures

Key Achievements:

- Demonstrated significant progress in Use of English paper
 - Passed the Cambridge C1 Advanced exam
 - Gained confidence in academic reading and writing
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6. Outcome

Immediate Applications:

- Enrolling in a university-level English Literature and History program
- Reading and analyzing complex academic texts
- Writing essays and participating in seminars conducted in English