



FCE Use of English Part 1 Activity– teacher’s notes

Description

This activity is presented in the format of Part 1 of Paper 3 and aims to give students an overview of it.

Time required: 30–45 minutes (plus 15–20 minutes for the optional task)

Additional materials required:

- any sample Part 1 task (optional).

Aims:

- to familiarise students with the FCE Use of English paper Part 1 and the strategies needed to tackle this type of task.

Procedure

1. Tell your students that you are going to look at Part 1 of the Use of English paper.
2. Hand out the student’s worksheet. Ask the students to read the instructions but not to start the task. Give them 1–2 minutes to do this.
3. Check that the students understand the task. For example, you could ask:
 - a. How many questions do you need to answer? 12
 - b. How many answers should you select? 1
4. Point out that this activity will give them an overview of the Part 1 task, and this overview will help them answer some of the questions (e.g. number 1) in the sample task. Refer to the example to show how the task works.
5. Students now attempt the task individually. It’s a good idea to give them a time limit of 10 minutes so that they get used to working under time limits.
6. After 10 minutes, tell students to compare their answers in pairs/small groups.
7. Check answers in class. For each question, ask students to explain why they chose the answer they did. It’s also a good idea to go through the meanings of the incorrect options where necessary (e.g. question 6) so that students build their vocabulary.
8. Ask the class to look at the types of gap in the text. In pairs, they should discuss the types of word that are missing. For example, question 0 requires a noun after ‘an’. See the key for further reference. Go through the text in class, discussing the different types of gap in the text.

Optional extension

1. You could now give your class a sample Part 1 task for further practice. See pages 44 and 48 of the FCE handbook.



FCE Use of English Part 1 Activity– answer keys

Key to Procedure

Step 8:

Types of gap

- 1) Specific information (a question like this would **not** appear in the exam)
- 2) Words with similar meanings
- 3) Specific information (a question like this would **not** appear in the exam)
- 4) Words with similar meanings
- 5) Collocation
- 6) Collocation
- 7) Fixed expression
- 8) Collocation
- 9) Words with similar meanings
- 10) Dependent preposition
- 11) Words with similar meanings
- 12) Collocation

Key to Student's worksheet

1. C
2. D
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. B
7. B
8. A
9. D
10. A
11. C
12. C



FCE Use of English Part 1 Activity– Student’s Worksheet

How much do you know about Part 1 of the Use of English paper? For questions 1–12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

Example:

0 A emphasis B focus C interest D question

Part One

In Part 1, there is an (0) on vocabulary and grammar. This part consists of a text in which there are (1) gaps (plus one gap as an example). Each gap represents a missing word or (2) The text is followed by 12 sets of (3) words or phrases, each set corresponding to a (4) Candidates have to choose which one of the four words or phrases in the set (5) the gap correctly.

Candidates are required to (6) their knowledge of vocabulary and understanding of the text in order (7) fill the gaps. Some questions test at a phrasal level, testing, for example, collocations and (8) phrases. Other (9) test meaning at sentence level or beyond, with more reading and understanding of the text required. Sometimes, (10) of grammar and vocabulary may be needed, such as when (11) have to choose the option which fits correctly with a following preposition or verb form.

Candidates can write on the question paper, but must mark their (12) on the separate sheet.

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|----|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|---------------|---|------------|
| 1 | A | 8 | B | 10 | C | 12 | D | 14 |
| 2 | A | sentence | B | letter | C | expression | D | phrase |
| 3 | A | one | B | two | C | three | D | four |
| 4 | A | hole | B | gap | C | break | D | miss |
| 5 | A | fills | B | shows | C | answers | D | functions |
| 6 | A | put down | B | draw on | C | get up | D | show off |
| 7 | A | in | B | to | C | of | D | at |
| 8 | A | set | B | complete | C | shown | D | remaining |
| 9 | A | times | B | occasions | C | possibilities | D | questions |
| 10 | A | knowledge | B | pieces | C | knowing | D | understand |
| 11 | A | examiners | B | children | C | candidates | D | testers |
| 12 | A | suggestions | B | alternatives | C | answers | D | ideas |