

Cambridge Celta Pre Interview Tasks

Cambridge CELTA Pre-Interview Task

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Complete this task carefully. It is an important factor in considering your application. CELTA is an intensive course of study. Because of this, candidates need to be fully prepared for the demands of the course and **show that they are able to research language structures, a skill required of ESL teachers**. Keep in mind that we cover language analysis on the CELTA course, so we do not expect you to be an expert in grammar before the course starts.

- To help you may refer to a grammar book such as "Practical English Usage" by Michael Swan (Oxford University Press) or any other grammar reference book you might have at home or find in the library/book store.
- The internet is also a great source of information. If you're looking for a site, try:
<http://www.about.com/ind/englishgrammar/english>

Please make sure you read the directions for each section and proofread your work carefully. The CELTA course requires a high level of written English. When you have finished, please send it to info@teachinghouse.com. Retain a copy of this task for your interview.

Part one: Language awareness

A. Error correction

Each of the exchanges below contains a mistake. In each case:

- write the corrected version in the space provided
- clarify your correction in simple English to explain the mistake

Example

Mr. Smith: "Do you have much experience in the restaurant business?"
Giorgio: "Yes, I've been working as a chef since 10 years."

- I've been working as a chef for ten years.
- We use 'since' before a point in time - for example, since Tuesday, since 1992, since 5 o'clock. We use 'for' before a period of time - for example, for two weeks, for six years, for ten minutes. In this case '10 years' is a period of time, so we need 'for'.

1.

Marie: "I'd like some informations about your courses."
Receptionist: "Certainly, here's our brochure."

- I'd like some information about your courses
- Uncountable nouns cannot be made plural. Information is an uncountable noun, so you can't and an "-s"

2.

Jack: "How do you get to the CELTA center every day?"
Pierre: "I'm walking and then taking the subway."

- I walk and then take the subway
- Use the present simple "I walk" when you talk about routines. Use the present continuous "I'm walking" when talking about actions that are happening right now or around now.

3.

John: "Did you see the movie on HBO last night?"
Helen: "Yes I did, it was so a good movie."
John: "Yeah, I think Tom Cruise is such a good actor."
(Comment on the difference between so and such)

- It was such a good movie or the movie was so good.
- We use "so" plus an adjective (the movie was **so good**). We use "such" plus a noun phrase (He is **such a good actor**).

4.

Carla: "Can you borrow me \$10?"
William: "Sure. Here you are."

- Can you lend me \$10?
- You borrow something. You lend someone something. "Lend" takes an indirect object, while "borrow" doesn't.

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Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks are an essential step for prospective teachers seeking to gain the internationally recognized Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults. This qualification not only enhances teaching skills but also opens doors to various teaching opportunities worldwide. The pre-interview tasks are designed to assess candidates' language awareness, teaching potential, and commitment to the course. In this article, we will delve into the significance of these tasks, the types of activities involved, and how to effectively prepare for them.

Understanding the Cambridge CELTA

The Cambridge CELTA is a highly regarded qualification awarded by Cambridge Assessment English. It is designed for individuals who want to teach English as a foreign language,

regardless of their previous experience. The course combines theoretical knowledge with practical teaching skills, making it a comprehensive program for aspiring educators.

Course Structure

The CELTA course typically consists of:

1. Input Sessions: These are lectures and discussions that cover language awareness, teaching methodologies, and lesson planning.
2. Teaching Practice: Trainees deliver lessons to real students, applying the knowledge gained in input sessions.
3. Feedback and Assessment: Trainees receive constructive feedback on their teaching practice, which is crucial for professional development.

The Importance of Pre-Interview Tasks

The Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks serve multiple purposes in the application process:

- Assessment of Language Awareness: Candidates must demonstrate a solid understanding of English grammar, vocabulary, and phonetics.
- Evaluation of Teaching Potential: The tasks help trainers gauge a candidate's ability to reflect on their teaching approach and adapt their methods.
- Commitment and Motivation: Completing the pre-interview tasks indicates a candidate's dedication to the course and their willingness to engage in self-directed learning.

Components of the Pre-Interview Tasks

The pre-interview tasks generally include the following components:

1. Language Analysis: Candidates may be required to analyze specific language features, such as tense usage or the structure of sentences. This task assesses their grammatical knowledge and ability to explain language rules.
2. Lesson Planning: Prospective trainees might need to write a lesson plan based on a given topic. This demonstrates their ability to structure lessons effectively and cater to learners' needs.
3. Self-Reflection: Candidates often have to reflect on their teaching philosophy and experiences. This task encourages self-awareness and helps trainers understand the candidate's motivations.
4. Reading and Writing Tasks: Completing articles or essays on relevant educational topics may also be part of the pre-interview process. This evaluates a candidate's writing skills and comprehension of teaching principles.

Preparing for the Pre-Interview Tasks

Preparation is key to successfully completing the Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks. Here are some strategies to help candidates excel:

1. Review English Grammar and Language Concepts

- Study Key Topics: Focus on grammar rules, sentence structure, and common language errors.
- Practice Explaining Concepts: Try explaining grammatical structures to a friend or colleague to build confidence in articulating language rules.
- Use Resources: Leverage grammar websites, textbooks, and online courses to deepen understanding.

2. Familiarize Yourself with Lesson Planning

- Understand the Components of a Lesson Plan: A typical lesson plan includes learning objectives, materials, procedures, and assessment methods.
- Analyze Sample Lesson Plans: Reviewing example lesson plans can provide insight into effective planning.
- Create Your Own Lesson Plans: Practice writing lesson plans for different levels and topics. This will help you feel more comfortable during the actual task.

3. Reflect on Your Teaching Philosophy

- Consider Your Motivation: Ask yourself why you want to teach English and what you hope to achieve.
- Identify Your Strengths and Areas for Improvement: Think about your personal teaching style and how it aligns with effective teaching practices.
- Write a Reflection: Draft a short essay outlining your teaching philosophy, which can serve as a template for the self-reflection task.

4. Enhance Your Reading and Writing Skills

- Read Educational Literature: Explore books and articles on language teaching methodologies, classroom management, and learner engagement.
- Practice Writing: Work on writing essays or summaries about your readings to improve clarity and coherence in your writing.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

While preparing for the Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks, candidates should be mindful of common mistakes that can hinder their performance:

- Neglecting Language Precision: It's crucial to use clear and accurate language when completing tasks. Proofreading can help catch errors.
- Overlooking the Audience: When writing lesson plans or reflections, consider who your audience is and tailor your language and content accordingly.
- Failing to Manage Time: Allocate sufficient time for each task to avoid rushing through them. Creating a schedule can help.

Conclusion

Completing the Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks is a vital step in the journey to becoming a certified English language teacher. These tasks not only assess candidates' readiness for the course but also provide an opportunity for self-reflection and growth. By understanding the components of the tasks, preparing thoroughly, and avoiding common pitfalls, candidates can enhance their chances of success in the CELTA application process. As they embark on this rewarding path, the skills and insights gained from the pre-interview tasks will serve them well in their teaching careers.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main objectives of the Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks?

The main objectives of the Cambridge CELTA pre-interview tasks are to assess the candidate's understanding of teaching concepts, to evaluate their potential as a language teacher, and to ensure they have the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the course.

How many pre-interview tasks are typically included in the CELTA application?

Typically, there are about 5 to 7 pre-interview tasks included in the CELTA application process, which cover various aspects of English language teaching.

What types of skills are evaluated through the CELTA pre-interview tasks?

The CELTA pre-interview tasks evaluate skills such as lesson planning, understanding of language and grammar, awareness of teaching methodologies, and reflective thinking about teaching practices.

Can I complete the CELTA pre-interview tasks after my interview?

No, the CELTA pre-interview tasks must be completed before the interview as they are used to inform the interview process and assess your readiness for the course.

Are there any resources recommended for completing the CELTA pre-interview tasks?

Yes, it is recommended to refer to the Cambridge CELTA Handbook, relevant teaching resources, and practice teaching materials to help complete the tasks effectively.

What happens if I struggle with the CELTA pre-interview tasks?

If you struggle with the CELTA pre-interview tasks, it may indicate that you need more preparation in understanding teaching concepts. It's advisable to seek additional resources or consider a preliminary course before applying.

How can I prepare effectively for the CELTA pre-interview tasks?

To prepare effectively, review the CELTA syllabus, study teaching methodologies, practice writing lesson plans, and familiarize yourself with common language teaching frameworks.

Is it necessary to have prior teaching experience before completing the CELTA pre-interview tasks?

No, prior teaching experience is not necessary to complete the CELTA pre-interview tasks, but it can be beneficial in understanding the concepts and reflecting on teaching practices.

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