

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-14086-7 - Success International English Skills for IGCSE Student's Book, Revised Edition

Marian Barry

Frontmatter

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Success International English Skills for IGCSE

Student's Book
Revised Edition

Previously published by Georgian Press

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521140867

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First published by Georgian Press (Jersey) Limited 1998

Second edition 2005

Reprinted and published by Cambridge University Press 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-14086-7 Paperback

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Egypt Today for the article 'Faces – Signs of concern' by Manal el-Jesri (page 197).
Explore Worldwide for extracts from their publicity brochure (page 125).
Sarah Farley for the abridged article 'Sporting chance' from *The Times Educational Supplement* (pages 52/3).
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Hobsons Publishing for 'An interview with Nick Park' by Philip Gray (pages 91/2), from *Springboard* magazine.
IPC Magazines Ltd for the adapted article 'Happy not to be a high-flyer' from *Options* magazine (page 12).
The Lady magazine for the abridged article 'Fear of swimming' by Beverly Davies (page 61).
Lancashire Evening Post for the film descriptions from *Seven Days* (pages 88/9).
Ewan MacNaughton Associates for 'Facing the fear', an adaptation of 'A mother makes up for lost years' by Angela Neustatter (page 18), © Telegraph Group London.
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Rosemary Conley's Diet & Fitness Magazine for the adapted article 'I went down four dress sizes!' by Hilary Talbot (page 59).

Solo Syndication for the adapted article 'Back from the dead' by Luke Harding (page 154), © Daily Mail/Solo Syndication.
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Judy Wall for the adapted quiz 'Are you living the life you want?' (page 8).

Illustrations by Josephine Blake

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Introduction

Dear Student,

In this book you will find all the support and information you need in order to do well in your Cambridge IGCSE examination in English as a Second Language (E2L).

Success International helps you develop each skill you will need for the exam – whether it is note-taking, summary writing, reading comprehension, composition writing, listening or speaking. You will learn to communicate effectively and make good sense.

The IGCSE in E2L has two levels, known as Core and Extended, offering grades A–G. Grades A–D are available at Extended level, and grades C–G at Core level. This book covers both levels, but aims to stretch and challenge you to reach a higher level than you perhaps thought possible. For example, you might be thinking, ‘I’d be happy with a D grade for my result’. If this is the case, aim for a C, or even a B. If you think you are an A student, make yourself an A star!

You might now be wondering, ‘How can I aim higher, when I’m not sure what’s expected of me?’ As you use this book, you’ll see that what is expected of you is made very clear. You will always understand what you are doing and why you are doing it. The units are structured to build up the skills gradually, starting with the easier aspects of learning, such as recognising and understanding information in the form of examples and models. For example, you might have to write an article for a teenage magazine. But before you start, you will be given lots of help with vocabulary and the style to use, so when it is your turn to write independently you’ll be able to do so confidently and easily. The **Unit focus** at the end of each unit explains the skills you have practised and how they fit into the exam requirements.

Success International is topic-based, and you will be practising your language skills while deepening your understanding of a range of contemporary issues. The exam can include questions on topics of international relevance. Students often feel unable to talk or write knowledgeably about such topics, but there is no need to feel like this. The coursebook provides the factual information you might need, as well as helping you to think about it in a straightforward way. As your thinking skills develop, your ability to analyse new ideas naturally increases, so you will be ready to tackle any topic you might meet in the exam.

As you progress through each unit of the book, you will enjoy having interesting themes to explore at the same time as improving your language techniques. You will pick up new vocabulary and structures quite painlessly. Each unit

has a short **International overview** feature in the form of a statistical chart or a quiz. This is an enjoyable way of absorbing information, and also provides a factual background to balance the opinions and ideas you have been discussing.

I sometimes find that students have lots of good ideas in their heads but they struggle to get them down on paper. Maybe you’re like that too. The exercises in *Success International* will help you overcome that kind of frustration because each topic is broken down into small bits. This means you can get each part of an exercise clear in your mind before moving on to the next part. In the end, you’ll have an overview of a whole topic which will give you a lovely sense of satisfaction. You’ll find you can produce an excellent letter or article, or present an impressive talk to your group.

On the subject of talking, I hope you are going to do lots in your group. This book provides many opportunities for you to share your ideas in English with your friends. Discussion is a great way to get your thoughts straight, bounce your ideas off other people, take a concept a stage further or get ready for an interesting listening or reading exercise. Don’t forget to use the pictures and photographs in the book to get your ideas going too.

Mature self-expression is an important goal of the course. There are several exercises which show the difference between a simple, basic way of writing and a more mature style which is appropriate for a young adult. Achieving a mature writing style involves various language and personal skills, but the results are well worth the effort of learning the techniques.

During the course, you will be helped to evaluate your progress so you can see what you need to do next to keep extending and developing yourself. I hope you will use the **Examiner’s tips** at the end of each unit, as these help you reflect on what you have achieved in the unit and give you specific hints for the exam. They also include ideas for further progress. At the end of each unit there are **Exam-format questions** for you to practise, which are very like the real questions in the exam.

When the time for the exam comes, I am sure you will feel thoroughly prepared and confident of achieving your best.

Finally, the secret of successful learning is not being born with a superior brain. It’s making up your mind to achieve something and sticking with it!

All the best,
Marian Barry