

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-69206-9 - The CELTA Course: Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults

Scott Thornbury and Peter Watkins

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●●● Trainee Book

The
CELTA
Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults
Course

Scott Thornbury

Peter Watkins

Published in collaboration with Cambridge ESOL



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

English for Speakers of Other Languages



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Introduction

What is CELTA?

CELTA stands for the Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults. CELTA is an initial qualification for people with little or no previous teaching experience, and is awarded by Cambridge ESOL, part of the University of Cambridge.

Candidates can take CELTA full time (typically four to five weeks), or part time (from a few months to over a year). There are five main units of learning:

- learners and teachers, and the teaching and learning context
- language analysis and awareness
- language skills: reading, listening, speaking and writing
- planning and resources for different contexts
- developing teaching skills and professionalism

Candidates are assessed throughout the course, with no final examination. An external assessor, appointed by Cambridge ESOL, moderates each course. There are two components of assessment:

- Teaching practice: candidates teach for a total of six hours, working with classes at at least two levels of ability. Assessment is based on the candidate's overall performance at the end of the six hours.
- Written assignments: candidates complete four written assignments. The assignments each focus on one of the following areas: adult learners; language systems of English; language skills; classroom teaching.

To be awarded the certificate, candidates must pass both components. There are three pass grades: *Pass*, *Pass B* and *Pass A*. A *Pass* is awarded to candidates who meet the criteria for a pass in both areas. A *Pass B* is awarded to candidates who meet the criteria for a pass in the written assignments and who demonstrate a level of achievement significantly above that required for a pass in relation to teaching practice. A *Pass A* is awarded to candidates who meet the criteria for a *Pass B* award and, in addition, demonstrate an awareness significantly higher than that required for a pass in relation to planning for effective teaching. For more information about CELTA, visit the Cambridge ESOL website: <http://www.cambridgeesol.org>.

What is *The CELTA Course*?

The CELTA Course is a coursebook for CELTA trainees. It is designed to be used during course input sessions (although some activities may be set in advance of sessions or as follow-up to sessions). The course consists of 40 units covering the topics on the sample CELTA course timetable (accessible on the Cambridge ESOL website), and extensive supplementary material, including advice on how to get the most out of teaching practice, a bank of classroom observation tasks, and a resource file that includes a glossary and recommendations for further reading.

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The 40 units are divided into four topic areas:

- Section A: The learners and their contexts
(Units 1 and 2) Learners' purposes, goals, expectations and learning styles
- Section B: Classroom teaching
(Units 3–26) Presenting language, developing language skills, planning, classroom management, teaching different levels, English for special purposes, monitoring and assessing learning, choosing and using teaching resources
- Section C: Language analysis and awareness
(Units 27–39) Grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation
- Section D: Professional development
(Unit 40) How to get a job and continue your professional development

Each unit comprises a number of activities, starting with a warm-up and concluding with reflection. From these units and activities, course trainers will select only those elements that meet the needs and syllabus specifications of their particular courses: it is not expected that trainees will do all the units and all the activities in the book, nor that they will necessarily do the units in the order presented in the book.

The CELTA Course is not only a coursebook: it also serves as an invaluable resource for post-course review and reflection. We hope that it enriches your experience of the CELTA course, and that the CELTA course, in turn, opens the doorway to a fulfilling and worthwhile career in English language teaching.