

Upper Secondary Plus 4

The USP4 course provides thorough preparation in all areas of language ability required for the Cambridge Proficiency test, namely:

Reading and Use of English: Students must show that they are able to understand texts from publications such as fiction and non-fiction books, journals, newspapers and magazines. Use of English is demonstrated by means of tasks which show how well learners can control their grammar and vocabulary.

Writing: Students must show that they are able to produce pieces of writing which are clear, smoothly flowing, complex and in an appropriate and effective style. Texts must demonstrate a logical structure which helps the reader identify significant points.

Listening: Students must show that they are able to understand the meaning of a range of spoken material, including conversations, lectures, seminars, broadcasts and talks. They must be able to understand with ease virtually any kind of language, whether live or broadcast, delivered at fast natural speed. They must also be able to understand and follow extended discourse on abstract and complex topics beyond their own field.

Speaking: Students will develop their ability to take part in different types of interaction with their teacher/examiner, with their classmates and by presenting topics on their own. They must show that they are able to produce clear, smoothly flowing, well-structured discourse with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

| Typical abilities | Reading and Writing | Listening and Speaking |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Overall general ability | Can understand documents, correspondence and reports, including the finer points of complex texts. | Can advise on or talk about sensitive issues, understanding colloquial references and dealing confidently with hostile questions. |
| Social and Tourist | Can write letters on any subject and full notes of meetings or seminars with good expression and accuracy. | Can talk about complex or sensitive issues without awkwardness. |
| Work | Can (for example, when looking for accommodation) understand a tenancy agreement in detail, including its main implications. | Can advise on/handle complex, delicate or contentious issues, such as legal or financial matters, to the extent that he/she has the necessary specialist knowledge. |
| Study | Can write letters on any subject with good expression and accuracy. | Can understand colloquial asides and cultural allusions. |