
CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS

Third edition. Amsterdam, 10 April 2019



CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS

FOREWORD

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We have been in the Netherlands since 1946. The largest part of our work in the Netherlands is the provision of UK examinations and qualifications. We are the largest authorised centre of Cambridge Assessment English in the Netherlands, with a wide network of exam centres across the country. We deliver Cambridge English exams in Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Rotterdam, Eindhoven, Maastricht, Arnhem, Leeuwarden, Groningen, Zwolle and Vlissingen.

As the world's English experts, we're passionate about the English language and those who teach it. Our aim is to support English teachers across the Netherlands, particularly in the area of examination preparation.

This is why we introduced our Conference for Teachers, with our first edition taking place in April 2017. We aim to provide you with a platform to develop your teaching skills, to inspire you, and to share experiences and ideas in the field of English language teaching and examinations.

We value the conference day to meet teachers from schools and institutions we work closely with and to get to know new teachers in an open and collaborative way. You have the opportunity to meet the people who work behind the scenes making your exam experience as smooth as possible and ask your questions throughout the day.

We wish you a valuable experience during the third edition of our Conference for Teachers.

Your exams team,

British Council in the Netherlands



**Cambridge Assessment
English**

Authorised Exam Centre

AGENDA

- 10.00–10.30** Conference registration with complimentary tea and coffee
- 10.30–11.00** Opening plenary session: welcome and short overview of our Addvantage member scheme
- 11.15–12.45** Morning interactive workshops (A–E)
- 12.45–14.00** Complimentary lunch and information market with publishers and partners
- 14.00–15.30** Afternoon interactive workshops (A–D)
- 15.30–16.30** Closing plenary session, distribution of certificates and networking



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PLENARY SESSIONS

Opening session

During this session we will present Addvantage, which we launched in September 2018. Addvantage is the British Council's complimentary examinations member scheme for schools and institutions registering Cambridge Assessment English exam candidates with us in the Netherlands. It's our way of saying thank you and to welcome our new customers.

You will receive the details of how the scheme works, such as eligibility, the application process and membership levels. We will present the membership benefits for your students, your school and your teachers that will be available as part of the scheme – for example, our exam practice website for students, teacher development tools, our guide to English exams for parents, our offer of digital materials and much more.

For further details on Addvantage, please visit our website:
www.britishcouncil.nl/addvantage-scheme

About the speaker

Jan van Uum started as the Account Relationship Manager for the British Council in the Netherlands in January 2019. Before that, he held several roles with the British Council, including Exams Manager Benelux, where he supported schools and teachers to help their students acquire a Cambridge English qualification. More recently, he was involved in the introduction of the British Council Business Quality Assurance programme in Europe. Previously, he worked as exam manager in the finance industry, where he led the introduction of computer-based testing in the Netherlands. His current focus lies on relationship building through our Addvantage member scheme, which includes resolving issues, adding value and ensuring delivery on expectations.

Closing session

This session will consist of a few closing remarks by Eelco Vugs, the British Council Country Director for the Netherlands and Belgium, followed by a short survey, and distributing the certificates of attendance of the third edition of the Conference for Teachers. There will then be a quiz in which all attendees are tested on their knowledge of the different workshops. The quiz provides an opportunity to share lessons learned, as well as summarise the main conclusions on the day. An interactive panel of our speakers will answer questions arising from the quiz, or any other comments, feedback or queries on our exams, our membership scheme, and tips and tricks for teachers and schools. And, of course, there is a quintessentially British prize up for grabs for whoever gets the most correct answers in this interactive final activity.

About the speaker

Eelco Vugs joined as the Country Director for the Netherlands and Belgium in 2018. Before moving to the Netherlands, he was the Regional Child Protection Manager covering the 21 countries of the East and South Asia regions with the British Council. Throughout his career, he has held frontline, investigative, judiciary and leadership roles in the child protection industry, while being based in Australia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Eelco has a keen interest in political and international affairs and is passionate about working with people.

About the moderator

Neil Fisher is the Country Examinations Manager for the British Council in the Netherlands and Belgium. He joined the British Council in 2018, having previously worked in the UK as Assistant Principal of a large further education college and in more recent years as an EU Educational Consultant. Neil's focus lies on setting out the strategy for English language exams in both countries, in particular in relation to Cambridge Assessment English in the Netherlands.

INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS



A. Common pitfalls for C2 Proficiency candidates in the writing paper

Simona Petrescu, Cambridge Assessment English

The workshop examines the challenges that the C2 Proficiency writing paper poses to candidates. Data-driven findings on Dutch candidates' writing performance will inform the choice of teaching strategies and tips suggested during the session. Participants will take away a teaching kit that may help them address the C2 Proficiency writing challenges more effectively.

About the speaker

Simona Petrescu has been a teacher of English since 1996, focusing on Cambridge English exam preparation courses. She is an experienced teacher trainer and teaching materials writer, formerly a Cambridge English Speaking Examiner and Speaking Examiner Trainer. She works for Cambridge Assessment English in the Assessment Services Team Europe, providing orientation on assessment and pedagogical aspects related to Cambridge English Qualifications.





B. 'Honest tales' – professional development

Tim Phillips, British Council

When teachers and students tell stories, they can share so much language, learning and experience. This interactive workshop will explore ways in which storytelling can be used in English language classrooms and for your own professional development. It will give you a chance to tell stories and use different methods for responding to and developing stories. It will introduce you to materials and methods that the British Council uses round the world to help teachers in their teaching, and present some stories and techniques you can take away and use in your schools.

About the speaker

Tim Phillips is Head of Teacher Development in English for Education Systems at the British Council, based in Manchester. He leads the British Council's Teaching for Success project, which supports the development of primary and secondary teachers in state education systems worldwide. He has worked as an English language teacher and teacher trainer in schools, universities and teacher-training centres in Jerusalem, Spain, Portugal, Slovakia and North Macedonia. He is chair of Aqueduto (the Association for Quality Education and Training Online) and a member of the advisory board of the *ELT Journal*.



C. Engaging students through assessment for learning

Aidan Holland, British Council

This session will explore the benefits of integrating an assessment for learning approach into exam preparation courses. This approach to teaching ensures that objectives are brought to the fore at the beginning of classes and that these are consistently used as a benchmark for students to measure their learning. We will first look at how to write clear success criteria for the productive parts of the Cambridge exams and develop teaching strategies to engage with them before, during and after tasks. With regard to the receptive skills, we will then turn to the main strategies that students need to perform well in the reading and listening parts of the exam, and consider how to foment a more strategic approach to these tasks. The session will end by looking at techniques to develop the declarative knowledge of grammar required to be successful in the Use of English section of the exam.

About the speaker

Aidan Holland has been working in English language teaching since 2004. He lived in Taiwan, Italy and the UK before moving to Spain in 2009, and since then has held a range of different roles at the British Council. He is currently the lead for secondary courses in Spain and is part of the National Continuous Professional Development Team. He has a wealth of experience preparing students for the Cambridge exams and is particularly interested in looking into ways teachers can engage students in class and make them aware of their progress.



D. Game on! The use of games in language learning

*Elena Louicellier and Marleen Geertsma,
Cambridge Assessment English*

What is gamification and how can it be used in language learning? Are teachers ready to integrate online games into classroom practice? Do games really contribute to effective language learning? And is the effort worth it? In this interactive session you will explore how you can use games with your learners, and we will share practical tips and insights for both digital and analogue gamification.

About the speakers

Elena Louicellier is Assessment Services Manager for Cambridge Assessment English in Europe. She is responsible for providing educational expertise in learning, teaching and assessment to all key stakeholders in the region. She also delivers talks, workshops and seminars in Europe to support teachers in their professional development. Prior to joining Cambridge Assessment English in 2015, Elena acquired more than ten years' experience in international school programme management and teaching, and in French higher education.

Marleen Geertsma has been the Country Manager for the Benelux with Cambridge Assessment English since October 2017. She holds over 15 years of experience as a French teacher at secondary level, having previously worked for the CvTE and Cito in addition to being a member of the board of the French department of Levende Talen, responsible for (V)MBO. Marleen's current focus includes exam centres, seminars and webinars, (digital) marketing, prep centres, recognition and admission.



E. Making business English come alive

Caroline Pickard, independent trainer and facilitator

Sometimes it can be a challenge to make a business English course relevant for your students and fun for you to teach. In this workshop we will explore how to keep business lessons useful, focused and up to date. We will explore not just the exams available but also think about the key skills your students need to take from the classroom to the office. How can teachers address this and what are our favourite 'go-to' resources? Which teaching methods can we transfer from small to large groups; professional to college students; exam courses to tailored classes? Be prepared for an interactive session where participation and sharing are a must!

About the speaker

Caroline Pickard is an experienced trainer and facilitator, specialising in both business English and workplace inclusion. She has worked for both international companies as well as smaller-scale organisations and institutions, and has experience across many sectors, from public service and education to banking and manufacturing. She designs, implements and facilitates customised events and training programmes for both small and large groups, and has extensive experience teaching one-on-one and small group business communication. Caroline is originally from the UK and graduated from the University of Bristol with a BSc in Geography, attaining CELTA as a mature student.



OUR PARTNERS

We look forward to welcoming our partners, publishers and other organisations to our conference day, and would like to thank them for their continued collaboration.

We would like to invite you to discover their latest offers and opportunities available for you and your students at our information market during lunch.



**Cambridge Assessment
English**



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