

OET pilot, early results and critical success factors

Chris Moore
Managing Director
Specialist Language Courses
OET Forum, August 2018

SLC: Medical English experts



SLC: OET preparation specialists



Some of our OET clients

Cambridge University Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust



St George's Healthcare 
NHS Trust

Medway 
NHS Foundation Trust

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

Weston Area Health 
NHS Trust


Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust

Dartford and Gravesham 
NHS Trust


CARING HOMES


Four Seasons
HEALTH CARE

 Specialist Language Courses


OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST
Premium Preparation Provider

The OET Pilot

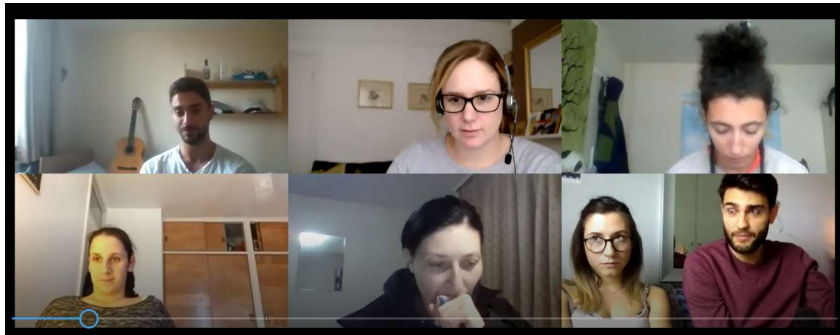
OET Pilot Group

- Commissioned by OET
- 8 nursing candidates from Cambridge University Hospitals and King's Commercial (King's College Hospital)
- 4 candidates in the UK, 3 in India, 1 in the Philippines
- Start level – mid- & high-B2 (CEFR), 6.5 (IELTS)

Course Design

- 100 hours live tutoring in SLC Virtual Classroom
- Reach OET B Nursing (50-hour online course)
- Homework and test practice
- Personal study plans and mentoring

A snapshot of the SLC virtual classroom



OET Listening Sub-Test B

(Insect) repellent Prevalence (of a disease) Mosquito Symptoms

Malaria

SLC



OET SAMPLE TEST

CANDIDATE CARD NO. 1 MEDICINE

SETTING: Suburban Clinic

DOCTOR: A parent presents with his/her five-year-old son, Matthew, as follow-up after an emergency consultation two days ago when Matthew was newly diagnosed with asthma. Then, Matthew experienced a severe bout of coughing, breathing difficulty and wheezing on the background of a cold with low-grade fever. The parent felt frightened so took Matthew to the hospital Emergency Department where he was treated with nebulised salbutamol. The parent has little understanding of asthma and is very anxious about how to manage asthma.

TASK:

- Explain asthma to the parent (narrowing of airways in lungs). Describe some of the symptoms (e.g., shortness of breath, wheezing).
- Explain 3-5 management points (e.g., how to identify and control trigger factors; assess severity of symptoms; respond in an urgent situation; ensure school is informed and salbutamol available there).
- Reassure the parent by explaining that prognosis is good if the parent understands the triggers and knows exactly what to do in an acute situation (you will support by developing an Asthma Action Plan and arranging early review).

I would like to explain to you... due to (linking phrase)
 I can understand you/ I can appreciate you're feeling worried (empathy) - let me assure you that

© Cambridge English Language Assessment (2014) SAMPLE TEST

Function Verbs

What is your role?

Where can you find information about the patient?

What do you need to do?

What do you expect to happen?

What skills do you need to use to complete this task?

Can you think of some useful phrases?

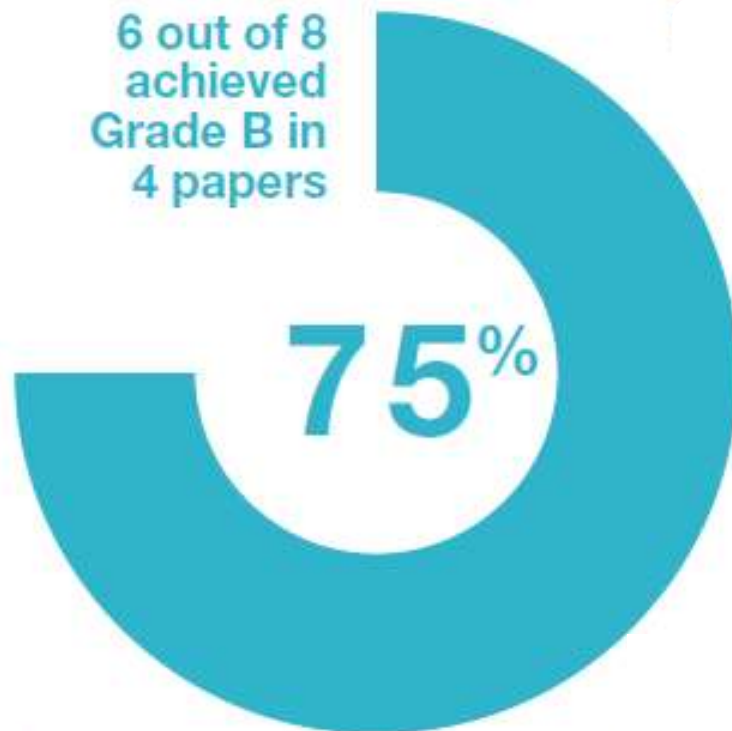
PT will ask a lot of questions - interrupt, tell the pt you'll answer some question later
 PT will be anxious - reassure



What information would you expect to hear in a talk about malaria?

| | |
|---|---|
| Jane medication vaccination preventative measures | Virginia blood bites fever prevention mosquito nets seriousness |
| Beth Symptoms Risk factors Treatment Prevention | Jo where it happens how people catch it history |

OET pilot results



% of B Grades by sub-test

- Listening 100%
- Reading 100%
- Writing 75%
- Speaking 100%

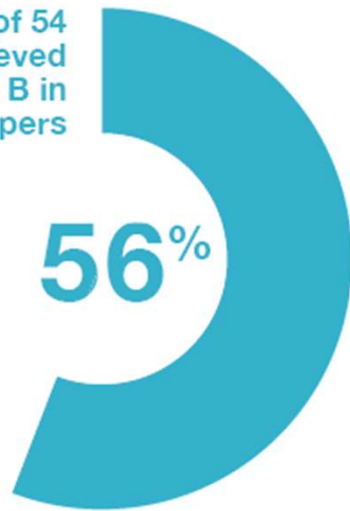
Some more early results..

| Group 1 | Start level | Course length | Listening | Reading | Writing | Speaking |
|------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| [Redacted] | High B2 | 72 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low B2 | 72 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Mid B2 | 72 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low B2 | 72 hours | B | B | C+ | B |
| | High B2 | 72 hours | C+ | C | C | B |
| | Mid B2 | 72 hours | C+ | C | C | B |
| | Low B2 | 72 hours | C | B | C | B |
| Group 2 | Start level | | L | R | W | S |
| [Redacted] | High B2 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | High B2 | 100 hours | B | B | C | B |
| | High B2 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | High B2 | 100 hours | B | B | C | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |

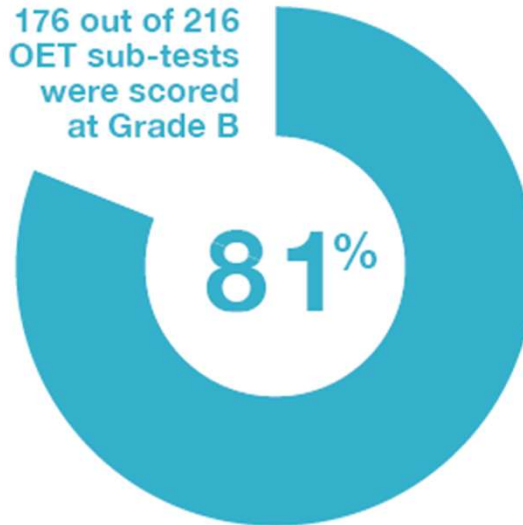
| Group 3 | Start level | | L | R | W | S |
|------------|-------------|---------------|----|---|----|----|
| [Redacted] | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | C+ |
| | | | B | A | C+ | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | C+ | C | C+ | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | C | B |
| | Low B2 | 100 hours | C | C | C | C |
| | Mid B2 | 100 hours | B | B | C | B |
| Group 4 | Start level | course length | L | R | W | S |
| [Redacted] | High B2 | 120 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Mid B2 | 120 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | High B2 | 120 hours | C+ | B | C+ | B |
| | Low B2 | 120 hours | B | B | C | B |
| | Mid B2 | 120 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Mid B2 | 120 hours | B | B | B | B |
| Group 5 | Start level | course length | L | R | W | S |
| [Redacted] | High B2 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | C+ | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |
| | High B2 | 100 hours | C+ | B | B | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | C | B |
| | Low C1 | 100 hours | B | B | B | B |

54 candidates - some analysis

30 out of 54
achieved
Grade B in
4 papers



176 out of 216
OET sub-tests
were scored
at Grade B



% of B Grades by sub-test:

Listening 80% :: Reading 85% :: Writing 65% :: Speaking 94%

Critical success factors

Start level (OET-specific placement test)

Course duration and blend

OET-trained tutor

Minimum 90% attendance

Minimum 90% homework completion



Any questions?

Chris Moore

chris@specialistlanguagecourses.com

www.specialistlanguagecourses.com

