
Student Land

Issue 01 | Winter 2014

The IELTS student magazine - *by students, for students*



Siema, a popular holiday resort

A student's guide on the local area

FCE/CAE/CPE/IELTS

Overview of examination courses

Soothe your sweet tooth at a traditional cosy cafe

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An  language centre.



A Word from the Editor

Hello everyone, and welcome to our first edition of IELS Student Magazine 2014 designed by students for students of English.

'IELS Student Land' is your little island where you can use your imagination and creativity, work together with your fellow-classmates and produce something that you can keep and share with your friends and family.

The magazine will be issued quarterly and will include a number of articles on various topics, puzzles, crosswords and photos as well as some useful tips that can help you to make an informed decision about your next course. Remember the IELS team are here to help you, so always feel free to ask us when in doubt!

This edition is dedicated to the examination preparation classes with a particular focus on Cambridge and IELTS exams. You will find some more information that will give you an understanding of each exam and its requirements, and how you can benefit from getting such qualifications. Creatively written by our CAE exam preparation students (September - December 2013), the magazine is both entertaining and informative. It includes loads of examples of useful vocabulary such as descriptive adjectives, idioms, collocations and linking words. You could also use the magazine to work on your vocabulary, for example, when you come across a new word or expression, look it up and write it down in your notebook with an example. In the final part of the magazine you will find a photo gallery with some photos that were taken by IELS students that show their experiences in Malta and their favourite sights on the island.

If you would like to know more about our courses, are interested in taking up a more challenging course, or if you simply have a question, come and speak to the IELS academic team and we will be happy to help you.

Best wishes

Yours truly,
Julia Jones



Editor's biospot: Julia Jones
Fulltime teacher at IELS Malta
BA Linguistics, English and
Cambridge CELTA.
Has taught English as a foreign
language to students in Russia,
Australia and Malta for the last 7 years.

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Student Land is published by IELS Malta.

We welcome any submissions: Please hand any items you would like considered to your teacher.

Articles in this magazine are contributed and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of IELS Malta.

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Soothing the sweet tooth at 'Busy Bee'

There are many cafes along the promenade from Sliema to Msida, but there is one which you absolutely have to visit while you are in Malta.

Busy Bee is a traditional cafe, located in the Msida area. It is a typical Maltese getaway where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the seafront and indulge in sweet temptations of chocolate and fruit cakes, Maltese kanolli filled with sweet ricotta cheese, aromatic coffee and tea, and lots more - all these treats are offered in a cosy atmosphere while you are sitting around a table among your best friends savouring the simple joys of life.

The cafe is very often full and you'll be lucky to get a seat on a

Sunday evening. It is popular with the Maltese, the old and the young, who come here from all over the island to spoil themselves at the weekend. The staff are polite and friendly and the prices are very reasonable. You can pick any cake from the display cabinet and you won't be disappointed. They all taste just as great as they look! The only downside could be the difficulty in finding a parking spot in case you decide to drive. However, remember that once you step in, all your efforts will be well worth the hassle. Indulge and enjoy!

by Maria Vittoria Rinaldi from IELS CAE Preparation Class (2013)

Guess the Genre

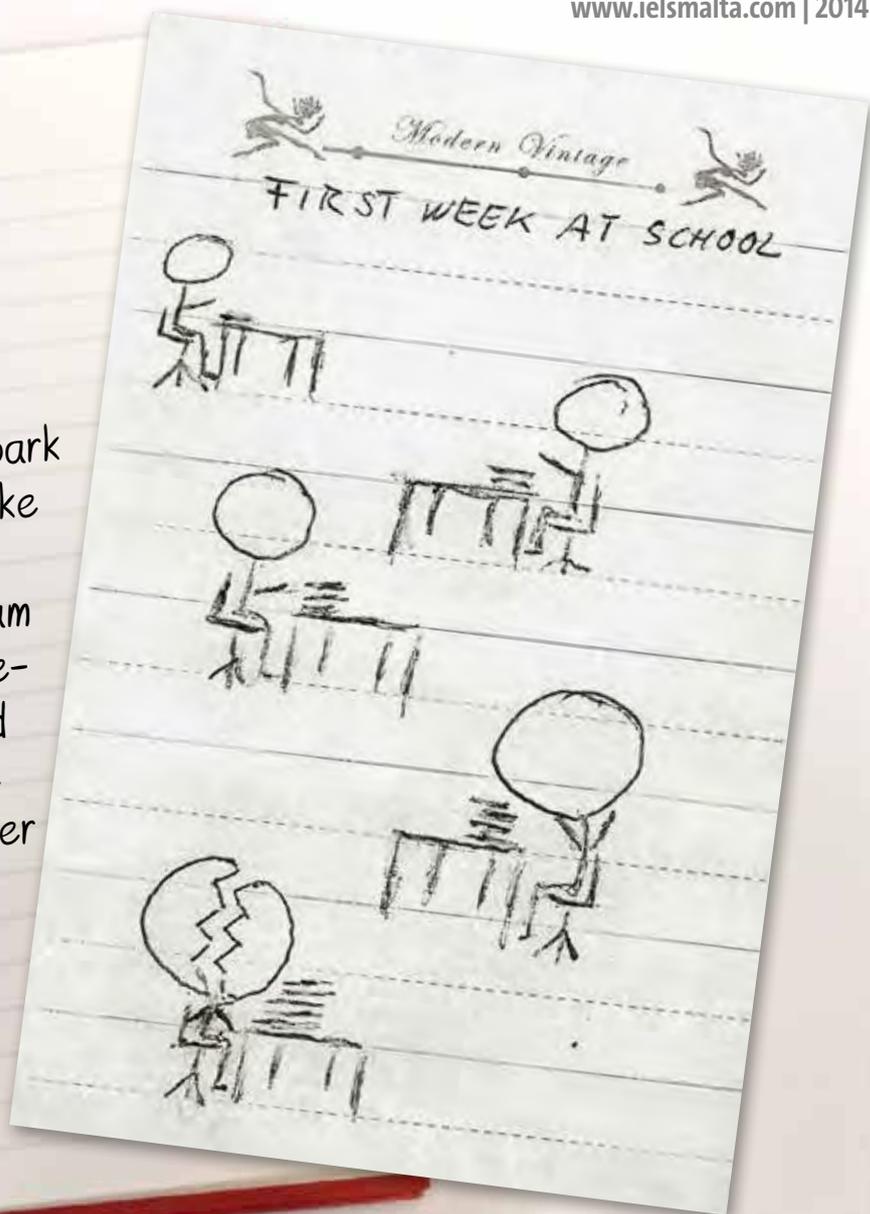
Similarly to the previous text, guess the genre of this one. Here are the options (remember the answers will be on the last page):

- A) an information sheet B) a review C) an essay

Student Diary

It isn't a walk in the park and be prepared to take up a challenge. Once you've passed your exam you'll have acquired life-long language skills and obtained a certificate valid and valued all over the world.

Good Luck!





Explore Sliema

Sliema Harbour

Sliema is situated on the North-East coast of Malta. The name of the town means 'peace, comfort'. In its early days this place used to be a small quiet fishing village, but over the years it transformed its looks to become a popular holiday resort full of English language schools, hotels, cafes and restaurants. Here is what Franziska from IELTS CAE Preparation class (2013) has discovered for herself.

Wandering

Sliema has an amazing promenade, perfect for walking, jogging, having a cup of coffee in one of many cafes, or socialising while resting on a bench in the shade. Pets are welcome too, indeed they make up a large portion of Sliema's population. No wonder in summer all the locals are on the promenade enjoying the outdoors - you can never get bored here! Ambling along the streets you can see a magnificent vista of St Julian's and the harbour with beautiful sunlit beaches, leafy parks and lovely restaurants. 'Surfside Bar and Grill' is a perfect stop for a weary traveller as it offers good food and refreshing drinks at reasonable prices. To top it up, you will be served by young, friendly and very laid-back staff. The centre of Sliema is busy with the hustle and bustle of supermarkets and shopping centres, for example, The Point or the Plaza, where anyone willing to follow the latest trends in fashion can find a

gem at a bargain price. For a change of scenery and atmosphere, wander up the narrow streets of residential blocks to feel the Mediterranean vibe in every aspect of your surroundings, from traditional limestone buildings with colourful doors, balconies and shutters to local cats sitting around on every corner watching the world go by.

I snack, you snack

Take a break and go for a savoury snack go to 'Champ' to try famous Maltese cheesecakes (locally called 'pastizzi'). They are only 30 cents each filled with either ricotta or mashed peas - whichever kind you choose, you will love them! Feeling like it's time for dessert? Find a choice of delicious Italian ice-cream at La Gelateria in Stella Maris Street.

“

Wander up the narrow streets of residential blocks to feel the Mediterranean vibe in every aspect of your surroundings

”

Dinner for sinners

Are you in love? Well, 'Ta' Kolina' is a romantic place perfect for your first date. It's small and cosy and will spoil you both with a great view. Need something more vibrant? Go to 'Café Cuba' on Tower Road to enjoy the rhythm of the Latin American music while sipping your luscious cocktail. Feel like trying some local specialities? 'Maltese Mezze' is there for you serving delicious home-made 'bigilla' with crackers for a starter, rabbit stew for the main or anything else you desire. While you are there don't miss out on their mouth watering desserts. Or, perhaps, you are in a hurry? Then go to Bisazza Street to have a quick bite at McDonald's or Pizza Hut. For any taste and budget, Sliema conveniently houses all types of eateries.

Drink and chat

Enjoy the tasty local beer 'Cisk' at 'Shutter's Pub' in Mrabat Street, or just step in one of the numerous tiny pubs on every side street where you can meet the locals. One of the best I found was Salisbury Arms near Stella Maris Street.

Get lost

In Sliema everything is within walking distance, but the streets are like a labyrinth full of narrow passages and complicated intersections. Be adventurous and don't worry if you get lost – the locals are friendly and helpful and not only will they show you the way but you should also expect to have a little chat with them, especially if you happen to approach an elderly person. It's all part of having fun here! To reach the nightlife in 'Paceville' or to go sightseeing around the island, just catch a public bus or hop on one of the sightseeing buses. Whatever you do you will enjoy yourself!

by Franziska Hanisch



Narrow Streets



Colourful Balconies

Guess the Genre

If you are familiar with English genres, guess the genre of the text you've just read. Here are the options to choose from: (answers on page 11)

A) a report B) a formal letter C) an article



To begin with, here is a puzzle for you. What are these abbreviations used for?

- CAE/ CPE
- FCE
- IELTS

No clue? Here are some hints for you...

They are all examinations designed to test your English language skills – 'Hmm', you think. 'I think I've heard this before, but I can't remember anything about it, maybe I overslept that day?'

Ok, don't worry, we are here to help.

Here are some useful links where you can find the answers and lots more

www.ielts.org and **www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-qualifications**

So, are we there yet? Just to sum up, here is a table for you to compare the information:

Examinations	Meaning	Council of Europe Levels (CEFR)	Results
CPE	Cambridge Proficiency English	C2	To pass these Cambridge exams, you need to get grades A, B or C. This means you have to score at least 60% in every paper. However, you may still pass if you do exceptionally well in one part and score less than 60% in another. The results are globally recognised by many universities, employers and governments.
CAE	Cambridge Advanced English	C1	
FCE	Cambridge First Certificate in English	B2	
IELTS	International English Language Testing System	Any level	Score 0-9 (0 if you did not attempt, and 9 being a high level of English). The results are recognised by educational institutions, employers and government immigration offices in the UK and Australia. Most universities accept scores between 6-7 as being suitable for undergraduate study in English.

Quiz

If you decide to sign up for a Cambridge course, you will learn how to write various text types, for example, essays, reviews, articles and reports. Here is a quiz for you to check what you might already know about different genres.

Choose one correct option below (you'll find the answers on page 11)

1. In which genre can you use informal language?
 - a) article
 - b) proposal
 - c) contribution
2. In which genre should you use headings?
 - a) formal letter
 - b) essay
 - c) report
3. In which genre do you give information to the reader about a particular topic and include factual details?
 - a) information sheet
 - b) proposal
 - c) review
4. In which genre can you use direct questions?
 - a) proposal
 - b) article
 - c) formal letter
5. In which genre can you criticise as well as praise something?
 - a) review
 - b) contribution
 - c) competition entry
6. In which genre should you suggest some possible improvements?
 - a) article
 - b) contribution
 - c) proposal
7. In which genre should you attract the reader's interest?
 - a) formal letter
 - b) informal letter
 - c) article
8. In which genre every body paragraph expresses one main idea followed by several supporting ideas and examples?
 - a) essay
 - b) proposal
 - c) review
9. What genre would you choose if you went to a restaurant and wanted to share your experience with your readers?
 - a) contribution
 - b) review
 - c) competition entry

Time for
a Laugh!

Why on earth would you live in the Arctic?

Firstly, low temperatures are good for your skin. Secondly, you can have a lot of privacy. What's more, you can make many new friends, who won't bother you with their meaningless chat in the morning. Furthermore, you won't have to put up with the noise coming from the apartment upstairs.

In addition, you can practise extreme sports such as skiing and ice-skating – all absolutely free of charge! And if you are a real adrenaline junkie, you can even go more extreme by trying to escape from melting icebergs. To top it up, just imagine for a second: there is no financial crisis in the Arctic! All in all, the Arctic is a breathtaking place to live and to discover your true spiritual self.

While you are reading this article try to spot as many linking words as you can and think what function they have in this text.

by Raffael Brun and Sang-Yub Lee from IELTS CAE Preparation Class (2013) to encourage new generations to settle in the remote areas of our planet.

Shall we Gangnam Style?

Do you know Psy? You've probably heard a catchy song sung by a bunch of funny Koreans dancing some kind of modern 'chicken dance' variation. Yep, that's the one – famous Psy K-Pop King, the inventor of Gangnam Style!

In my opinion, Psy is the most well-known representative of Korean pop music. He is a singer, songwriter, rapper, dancer, record producer and a television star. Internationally Psy is recognised worldwide for his famous dance that went viral on YouTube receiving more than a billion clicks, and has been copied by millions of people.

Even if you never liked pop music, you will love him for his charming personality and great sense of humour. His performances are designed to make people happy so that you can forget about everyday problems and enjoy the rhythm. Now, whatever you are doing, whether you are standing or sitting down, get ready to dance and sing, and join the group of Psy fans.

by Sang-Yub Lee from IELTS CAE Preparation Class (2013)



Excursion Highlights

Valletta

(Half-day tour)

Shopping . Culture . Arts . History

The excursion will start from the Upper Barrakka Gardens where the students will have a magnificent view of the Grand Harbour and Cottonera. The group will then pass in front of St John's Co-Cathedral. The next place to visit will be Malta 5D which tells the story of the History of Malta 1565. There is also the option of Audio Visuals show, "Malta Experience".



Gozo

(Full-day tour)

Shopping . Culture . Arts . History . Entertainment . Beach . Adventure . Sightseeing

While enjoying stay in Malta, you shouldn't miss out on this fantastic full day excursion to Gozo which is only a twenty-five minute ferry crossing away from the main island of Malta. As soon as you set foot in the pretty Gozitan port of Mgarr you will notice that, although both islands are similar in history and development, Gozo has a character entirely of its own. Gozo boasts more greenery than Malta with its hilly landscape and picturesque countryside, making it an island full of charm waiting to be discovered. On this excursion students visit all the popular landmarks of Gozo such as the Citadel in Victoria, the famous Azur Window in Dwejra and the rocky cliffs in Xlendi Bay. Since Gozo is well known for its woollen goods and handmade lace, honey and cheese, we will also include a visit to the market with free time for shopping and the opportunity to sample these items first hand.



Harbour Cruise

(Half-day tour)

Culture . History . Entertainment . Sightseeing

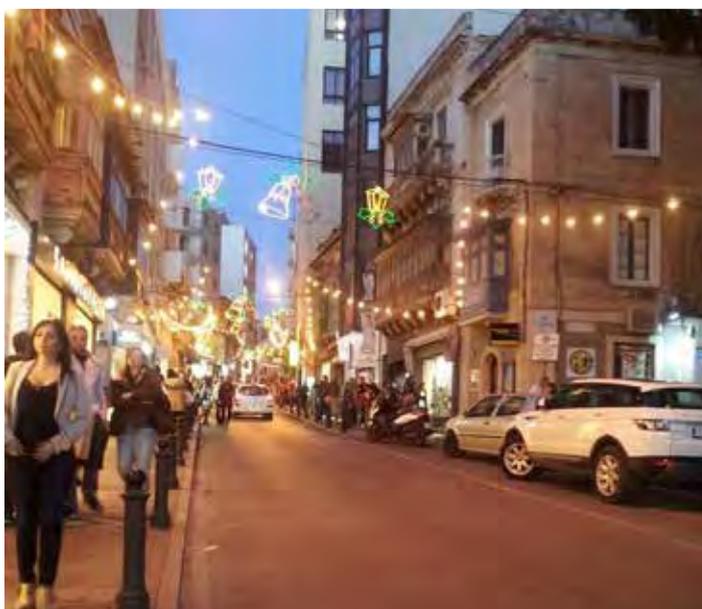
During this spectacular excursion students will visit one of Malta's natural treasures, The Grand Harbour. This tour will take them around the many creeks and ports offering wonderful views of Valletta and the Three Cities as seen from the sea. This unique experience will illustrate why the Grand Harbour is considered one of the most beautiful ports in the world and is a true haven for photography enthusiasts. Students will also have free time to explore one of Malta's top shopping centres in Sliema or to simply soak up the sun in one of the many cafes that are sprawled all along this popular promenade. (90 min boat ride)



What's on

Answers
 pp. 4-5 Explore Sliema: (a) article
 p. 6 Soothing the sweet tooth at Busy Bee: (b) review
 p. 9 Quiz: 1. a, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. a, 6. c, 7. c, 8. a, 9. b
 p. 11 Why on earth would you live in the Arctic?
 Linking words as they appear in the text:
 • Firstly
 • What's more
 • Secondly
 • Furthermore
 • In addition
 • And
 • To top it up
 • All in all
 They are all linking words to list your ideas. You can use them to organise your text logically and to make it more coherent.

Photo Gallery



Photos by (from left to right) Ian, Franziska, Julia, SungYeon, Raffael, Vittoria