

## **High-level language qualification for lawyers**

ILEC is an examination, set at levels B2 and C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. ILEC is equivalent in level to the world famous Cambridge First Certificate in English and Certificate in Advanced English, and assesses language skills in a legal context. Examinations at the C1 level may be used as proof of the level of language necessary to work in an international legal context or to follow a course of legal study at university level.

## **Internationally recognized**

ILEC is a Cambridge ESOL examination, produced and assessed by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations, in collaboration with TransLegal, Europe's leading firm of lawyer-linguists.

It is recognized by leading associations of lawyers including the European Company Lawyers Association, the European Law Students Association, the International Association of Young Lawyers, and the European Young Bar Association.

## **How it works**

ILEC exams are given twice a year, in May and November, starting in May 2006.

The examination takes approximately four hours in total ILEC is an examination, set at levels B2 and C1 and consists of four papers:

- Test of Reading
- Test of Writing
- Test of Listening
- Test of Speaking

The Test of Speaking is conducted face-to-face by qualified oral examiners. The examination is based on realistic tasks of the kind legal practitioners would be expected to encounter in their daily working lives.

Successful candidates are able to use the language in practical situations, to participate in meetings and discussions of a legal nature, express opinions clearly and are able to understand and to produce texts of various types, including legal letters, memoranda, and proposals.

Examinations will be delivered through Cambridge ESOL's network of authorised examination centres throughout Europe and beyond.

## **Preparation courses and materials**

It is expected that preparation courses for ILEC will be run in private language schools and university departments in many countries.

Cambridge University Press will publish an ILEC course book in April of 2006, authored by TransLegal. Online resources will also be available.

## **Grading and Certification**

Written papers will be marked in the UK, by Cambridge ESOL examiners.

Test results are normally reported within six weeks of the test date. There is a range of passing and failing grades to distinguish levels of performance.

All candidates receive a statement of result, showing their performance on each of the four papers and an overall grade, and candidates who achieve passing grades will receive an official certificate awarded by University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations.

## **International Legal English Certificate**

English is an essential tool for any lawyer working with international matters. It is the lingua franca of the legal profession, of business and international affairs.

Employers need to know that the legal staff they appoint have a sufficient level of English to be able to communicate with clients and professionals in other countries, and to handle information written in English.

At the same time, law students and newly-qualified lawyers need to be able to show employers that they have these skills.

The new Cambridge ILEC - International Legal English Certificate - was created to meet these needs. It is also suitable for students with some legal knowledge intending to study law courses which include a significant English language content, either in their own country or abroad.

## **Further information**

Further information about ILEC can be obtained at:

**[www.legalenglishtest.org](http://www.legalenglishtest.org)**

University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations is a part of Cambridge Assessment - Europe's largest educational assessment organisation. Cambridge ESOL examinations are taken by around 1.5 million people a year in 135 countries. The exams are characterised by an uncompromising commitment to assessment of the highest quality, recognition by universities, employers, and official bodies throughout the world, and a high level of support for learners and teachers (**[www.CambridgeESOL.org](http://www.CambridgeESOL.org)**). University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations is a part of the University of Cambridge and is a not-for profit organisation.

TransLegal is Europe's leading firm of lawyer-linguists: in-house, bilingual lawyers versed in the complexities of the Anglo-American and continental European legal systems, who provide high quality legal translations, instruction and training in legal English (**[www.translegal.com](http://www.translegal.com)**).