

Optimise Stars

your exam skills
B1 Preliminary (for Schools)

GAME INSTRUCTIONS



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Introduction to *Optimise your exam skills*

The game is based on a combination of two classic board games, *Snakes and Ladders* and a Spanish game, *La Oca*. It highlights the key features of B1 Preliminary for Schools and provides practice of key language skills. With six different categories, it is an entertaining opportunity to prepare your students for the exam throughout the whole year as well as before the exam.

The 6 categories are:

Exam Time providing valuable information about the exam format, highlighting exam changes. It serves as a handy review and offers useful advice during the final preparation stages, reminding students of what to expect when taking the exam.

Spell it! offering an opportunity to practice the spelling of personal information and proper nouns, which is tested in the Speaking and Listening parts. It helps students review word sets that exam takers are expected to know, like months, week days or seasons.

Speaking Challenge including tasks that help students practice speaking

skills throughout the course and before the exam. The topics refer to students' immediate environment and interests. The time limit included adds an interesting twist to the task, making it more challenging and competitive.

Story Cubes providing a creative and entertaining insight into storytelling, which is tested in the exam. Students practice creating a coherent narrative based on the vocabulary input. Players should be encouraged to use linking devices such as: *and, then, finally*. You can raise the level of difficulty by imposing a time limit.

Vocabulary Challenge consisting of stimulating questions testing students' knowledge of vocabulary they are expected to know when taking B1 Preliminary. This entertaining word quiz highlights the most difficult vocabulary items, showing them in a communicative context.

Mime it! category including tasks based on vocabulary topics for B1 Preliminary. Students have fun, trying to illustrate 5 ideas related to one topic, within the set time limit.

Instructions:

1. Put the class into teams of 4 or 5 students and assign each team a counter.
2. Show the students the *Optimise your exam skills* board game and tell them they are going to play a new game.
3. Show the students the board game and explain the meaning of the different spaces.



Exam Time



Story cubes



Spell it!



Vocabulary challenge



Speaking challenge



Mime it!

4. Explain how the game is played.
 - Each team moves around the board by rolling the dice.
 - If they land on a space with an icon, they draw a card from the category the icon represents. A correctly completed challenge means that they can roll the dice again and continue playing. An uncompleted challenge means that they return to their last space and it's the next team's turn.
 - *Miss a Go* and *Roll Again* spaces stand for the actions in their names.
 - Landing on a ladder is a climb up, landing on a slide is a slide down and the next team's turn.
 - To start the game each team rolls the dice. The one with the highest number goes first.
5. Categories: *Mime it!*, *Speaking Challenge* and *Story Cubes* can be set against the clock with the time limit preset by you.



THE GO-TO COURSE FOR EXAM PREPARATION

Optimise stars is the go-to exam preparation course for teenagers. It provides engaging lessons that equip students with essential skills and techniques to ensure their exam success.

The course offers optimum support and guidance to teachers who work in a results-driven environment, whether they are experienced or new to exams-focused teaching.

Written by exam experts, the course builds strong foundations for success at A2 Key for Schools, B1 Preliminary for Schools or B2 First for Schools exams in their most up to date format.



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