

REVIEW OF COMPACT FIRST PUBLISHED BY CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

For many people who are studying English, it is necessary to receive certification to demonstrate your level of English. Whether it be to study at a foreign university, for a new job or promotion that works with foreign clients, emigration to an English speaking country or just for personal gratification. Demonstrating upper-intermediate level (B2) becomes a goal for many English learners, as this level is the key to unlock many of the previously mentioned life-goals. As a result many of you who are reading this may wish to take the FCE English exam accredited by Cambridge University. This is a logical choice as the qualification is internationally recognized by employers and prestigious educational institutions and once obtained, will remain with you forever; unlike IELTS which expires after two years. *Compact First* is one of many books used to prepare students for this exam. In this article I'll look over the advantages and disadvantages of using this book for exam preparation.

One of the obvious advantages to this course is that it is published by Cambridge University Press, who also write the FCE exam. Therefore, if your desire is to pass the exam this book will carefully and clearly outline all topics and knowledge that will feature in the examination. You will not need to concern yourself with memorizing vocabulary or grammar constructions that will not feature in the FCE exam itself, making it particularly useful for students who wish to streamline their learning for this particular exam. Each unit examines one of the themes that can come up in the exam, such as the environment, technology, free time activities etc. Additionally each unit will go over some grammar rules and constructions as well as lexical items all in accordance to upper intermediate level. Additionally students who study using this book will get the opportunity to practice exam tasks such as reading and listening tasks in the style of those found in the actual exam. This is very useful for those training for this exam; however, those who wish to study English for fun may find such a structure tedious and unfulfilling. The content is geared merely to fit the needs of the exam and not to delve deeply into the complexities of English language.

One of the drawbacks of this course is the lack of explanation of certain grammatical structures. The course presupposes that the student who is taking this course already possesses a large body knowledge, and it's not clear from the outset what level a student should have before they embark on this course. Other course books for this and other examinations do more to cover for any gaps in the students' knowledge by providing thorough explanations of even simple grammar rules. Of course with a competent teacher any gaps in knowledge can be covered through additional exercises and professional guidance, although if a student was studying alone, the information gap may seem overwhelming without assistance.

So in conclusion this course book is a very useful tool for those who wish to attain the FCE certificate as it lays out the necessities of the exam in a simple format and gives real practice for what a student can expect when taking the FCE examination. It's not designed to be a general language course, and as a result can be less interesting for those who wish to study just for fun. Likewise it can be a little daunting if your level is not already at an intermediate level. So those of you who wish to take the FCE exam but

are starting from a lower level might be suggested to seek the assistance of a tutor to make up for any gap in knowledge.

References:

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LE MOUVEMENT DES GILETS JAUNES : UNE REVOLUTION DE MAÏDAN A LA FRANÇAISE.

Le mouvement des Gilets jaunes est apparu en France en octobre 2018 et s'est étendu dans de moindres proportions à d'autres pays. Ce mouvement social spontané trouve son origine dans la diffusion, principalement sur les réseaux sociaux, d'appels à manifester. Il est appelé ainsi car les partisans de cette mobilisation revêtent le gilet de sécurité jaune fluorescent qui est obligatoire en France dans tous les véhicules.

La mobilisation trouve son origine dans le rejet de l'augmentation de la taxe sur le carburant. Elle s'élargit rapidement à d'autres revendications fiscales et sociales. Ce mouvement de colère populaire est du à une fiscalité jugée injuste ou mal répartie. Les revendications des Gilets jaunes concernent essentiellement la hausse du pouvoir d'achat des classes populaires, le maintien ou la création de services publics, ou encore le rétablissement de l'impôt sur la fortune.

Mais les revendications deviennent rapidement politiques et institutionnelles. Les Gilets jaunes exigent ainsi une amélioration de la démocratie représentative tel que le référendum d'initiative citoyenne, la démission du président Emmanuel Macron, voire l'abolition du régime présidentiel français afin d'adopter un régime parlementaire.

À partir du 17 novembre 2018, le mouvement s'organise autour de blocages de routes, de ronds-points, et de manifestations nationales chaque samedi.

Les protestations trouvent un fort écho dans les zones rurales et périurbaines, et s'étendent aussi aux grandes villes.

Les manifestants sont pour la plupart des personnes de conditions modestes. Il s'agit d'ouvriers et d'employés qui ont du mal à boucler leurs fins de mois car ils sont fortement exposés aux taxes. Ils sont contraints d'utiliser leur voiture en raison de l'absence de transports publics dans les zones où ils résident. Ils subissent de plein fouet l'augmentation des taxes sur le carburant mise en place par le gouvernement.

Des violences lors des manifestations hebdomadaires provoquent d'importants dégâts matériels et donnent lieu à de nombreuses arrestations.