



VOCABULARY BANK

Future Plans and Ambitions

Future Plans and Ambitions | Bank 1: study, university and life goals | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Quick confidence check

Before you study the topic, mark the column that best describes your confidence with each word or phrase.

Word or phrase	New to me	I recognise it	I can use it
future plans	☐	☐	☐
ambition	☐	☐	☐
life goal	☐	☐	☐
university	☐	☐	☐
higher education	☐	☐	☐
subject choice	☐	☐	☐
qualification	☐	☐	☐
study abroad	☐	☐	☐
make a plan	☐	☐	☐
prepare for the future	☐	☐	☐
keep options open	☐	☐	☐
achieve a goal	☐	☐	☐

2. Vocabulary bank

Here are some useful words, adjectives, verbs and chunks that can be reused in exam answers. If you are not sure of their meaning, check online or ask your teacher.

Category	Useful vocabulary
Plans	future plans, ambition, life goal, make a plan, prepare for the future, achieve a goal
Study	university, higher education, subject choice, qualification, study abroad, entrance requirements
Decision-making	keep options open, choose a pathway, consider the cost, ask for advice, research carefully, long-term plan
Opinion chunks	In the future, I would like to..., One ambition I have is..., Higher education can..., It is important to research..., Keeping options open means...

3. Match the meaning

Match each word or phrase with the correct meaning. Then choose four and write your own examples.

Word or phrase	Meaning
1. ambition	a. an official result or award showing someone's level of study or skill
2. higher education	b. avoid deciding too early so different choices remain possible
3. qualification	c. a strong wish to achieve something
4. study abroad	d. a plan for what someone wants to do in the future
5. keep options open	e. study after secondary school, often at college or university
6. long-term plan	f. study in another country

4. Build useful chunks

Choose useful chunks from the grid. Then write three natural sentences you could use in a speaking or writing answer.

future plans	life goal	achieve a goal
higher education	subject choice	qualification
study abroad	keep options open	long-term plan

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

5. Read in context

Read the text. The bold words are from the vocabulary bank.

Planning the Next Step

Many students start thinking about their **future plans** before they finish school. Some have a clear **ambition**, while others are still exploring different choices.

A student who wants to go to **university** may need to research subject choices, entrance requirements and the **qualification** they need.

Some students hope to **study abroad**, but they also need to consider the cost, language requirements and distance from home.

It is sensible to **keep options open** while making a long-term plan. Good advice and careful research can help students prepare for the future.

6. Check your understanding

Answer the questions in your own words. Use the vocabulary bank where it fits naturally.

READING CHECK

1. Why do students think about future plans before finishing school?

2. What might a student research before university?

3. What should students consider before studying abroad?

4. Why is it sensible to keep options open?

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

What does 'ambition' mean?

- A. A strong wish to achieve something
- B. A short online message
- C. A public transport route
- D. A type of school rule

What is the writer's main advice?

- A. Students should research carefully and plan flexibly.
- B. Students must decide everything immediately.
- C. Studying abroad has no challenges.
- D. Advice is never useful.

7. Use the vocabulary

Task	What to do
Speaking 1	Describe one future goal you have.
Speaking 2	Discuss this question: Is university the best choice for everyone?
Writing	Write a short paragraph about your future study plans.
Review	Return to the confidence table. Choose one item you want to improve and write a clear example sentence.

8. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

- What subjects might be useful for your future?
- Would you like to study abroad?
- Why is it useful to keep options open?
- Who can give good advice about future plans?
- How can students prepare for higher education?

**ANSWER KEY**

Future Plans and Ambitions

3. Match the meaning

1. c = a strong wish to achieve something
2. e = study after secondary school, often at college or university
3. a = an official result or award showing someone's level of study or skill
4. f = study in another country
5. b = avoid deciding too early so different choices remain possible
6. d = a plan for what someone wants to do in the future

6. Check your understanding

1. They may want to explore choices or work towards an ambition.
2. Subject choices, entrance requirements and qualifications.
3. Cost, language requirements and distance from home.
4. It allows different choices to remain possible while planning.

MCQ 1: A. A strong wish to achieve something.

MCQ 2: A. Students should research carefully and plan flexibly.