**Jamie is on top of the world**

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**Jamie Blackband, a student at Gainesville High School (GHS) in the US, scored the highest mark possible at Cambridge International AS Level English Language in June 2012. He recently received a prestigious Cambridge Top in the World in recognition of his achievement.**

Winning a Top in the World award for Cambridge International AS Level English has made Jamie reflect on his writing skills. "I've never considered myself a writer," he said. "But when I learned about my score, I thought about how much I enjoyed English. I realised it probably is my strongest subject."

Looking back, Jamie recalls enjoying one of the creative writing tasks in the exam. He said: "I remember feeling really happy after I had written the essay. It's nice to be able to have a break and write something creative for a test rather than having to worry about using academic language. I was able to let my voice come out."

Jamie studied Cambridge International AS and A Levels, leading to the Cambridge AICE Diploma – a group award that is popular in the US. He said his success reflects Gainesville High School’s excellent English programme.

"You have to be able to write quality stuff in a short amount of time," said Jamie. "The Cambridge curriculum and my teachers prepared me for that really well.  The Cambridge curriculum as a whole is oriented around creating better-thinking people."

Jamie hopes to become a film director, and will take up a place at the Florida State University College of Motion Picture Arts later this year.  
  
You can read a longer version of this article in [*The Gainesville Sun*](http://www.gatorsports.com/article/20130518/ARTICLES/130519607/1182/frontpage).