

English B – Standard Level

This is a language learning course for students with some previous experience (2-5 years) in the target language, English. The main focus is on language acquisition and the development in the four primary language skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking) in order to give students the opportunity to reach a high degree of competence in a language and explore the culture(s) using the language. The range of purposes and situations for which and in which the language is used extends well beyond those at Ab Initio, to the domains of work, social relationships, and the discussion of abstract ideas for example.

Subject Areas

1. **Listening** - A range of spoken texts is used to develop listening skills and strategies. Students are exposed to many different types of listening experiences and situations including a variety of accents and a range of language contexts and ideas. Listening skills include the ability to participate in a conversation, as it is appropriate to the social and cultural contexts, understand grammatical structures that belong to natural, idiomatic speech, understand the language spoken at average pace, recognize and understand a range of vocabulary, follow exchanges in conversation, understand and respond appropriately to a series of questions and infer the implicit meanings present in spoken language. Spoken texts include film, news broadcasts, documentaries, travel shows and guest speakers.
2. **Speaking** - A range of material is used to stimulate oral activities. Students are encouraged to speak spontaneously as in “real” communication. Speaking skills include the ability to communicate effectively by using appropriate language and contributing actively in oral exchanges. Materials include television programs, video recording, plays, poems, lectures and debates.
3. **Reading** - Through reading a range of texts students develop a number of reading skills and strategies. These skills include understanding of overall meaning, scanning texts for particular details, understanding how texts are structured and understanding the purpose of the author in relation to the target audience. Texts include short stories, novels, news stories, poems, editorials, essays and plays.
4. **Writing** - Students produce texts for a variety of communicative purposes with an awareness of the audience for whom they are writing. Purposes include description, narration, written interaction, explanation, argument and analysis and critique. Writing skills include the ability to construct sentences, use a range of vocabulary, use language appropriate to the audience and purpose, convey concepts and information clearly, organize key points effectively, provide supporting details and imply ideas through the choice of language. Texts used for reading are often used for writing tasks, which include written responses based on novels, newspaper articles, short stories, plays and essays.

Assessment

Internal Assessments		Oral Component	30%
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual oral – on stimulus chosen by student • Interactive oral activity – mark from one oral 	
External	Paper 1	Text handling	40%
		1 ½ hrs Assesses the students’ abilities in reading and handling information from a range of texts	
	Paper 2	Written production	30%
		1 ½ hrs - Assesses the students’ abilities to communicate accurately for a range of purposes	