

## **IGCSE English as a Second Language**

As with all IGCSE courses, the English as a Second Language syllabus is designed to be taken over two years for examination at age 16-plus. The University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) syllabus assesses students' ability to use English as a medium of practical communication, and is aimed at students for whom English is not a first language/mother tongue but for whom it is a lingua franca or language of study.

The aims of the course are to:

- develop the ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication
- form a sound base for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the
- medium
- develop an awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills, along with skills of a more general application
- promote students' personal development.

The rationale for the English as a Second Language course is based on the widespread use of English as the medium of instruction and as the language of commerce or entertainment. The subject matter of the examination will reflect this international perspective. It is presumed that most candidates taking this course will have a primarily instrumental motivation – that is they will be studying the language in order to promote their educational or employment prospects. The topics will relate to the interests and needs of the candidates in using English as a second language and, in particular, to the world of work, to current affairs, to health and welfare, to travel and to school affairs.

### **Subject Content**

#### **Reading**

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to understand and respond to information presented in a variety of forms. They will need to select and organise material relevant to specific purposes; to recognise, understand and distinguish between facts, ideas and opinions; and to infer information from texts.

## **Writing**

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to communicate clearly, accurately and appropriately and to convey information and express opinions effectively. They will need to employ and control a variety of grammatical structures; demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of appropriate vocabulary; observe conventions of paragraphing, punctuation and spelling; and employ appropriate register/style.

## **Listening**

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to understand and respond to information presented in a variety of forms. They will need to recognise, understand and distinguish between facts, ideas and opinions; select and organise material relevant to specific purposes; and infer information from texts.

## **Speaking**

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to communicate clearly, accurately and appropriately and to convey information and express opinions effectively. They will need to employ and control a variety of grammatical structures; demonstrate knowledge of a range of appropriate vocabulary; engage in and influence the direction of conversation; and employ suitable pronunciation and stress patterns.

## **Resources and Texts**

Students will consider a variety of materials and will be encouraged to explore language in a range of form and style. IGCSE English as a Second Language (2004) by Peter Lucantoni [Cambridge University Press] will be utilised as the main textbook in order to develop this awareness of language, its potential and usage.

## **Assessment**

The final assessment will take the form of two externally assessed exams at the end of Year 11:

### **PAPER 2**

Reading and Writing (Extended)

Duration of Examination: 2 hours

Weighting: 70%

#### **PAPER 4**

Listening (Extended)

Duration of Examination: Approx. 45 mins

Weighting: 30%

Candidates will normally, in addition, offer an oral component, marks for which do not contribute towards the overall grade candidates receive for the written components. Instead, where candidates perform to an appropriate standard, certificates record separately the achievement of grades 1 (high) to 5 (low) for Speaking. Oral tests are conducted internally during a period before the main examination session, and then sent to the examining board for external moderation.