



English Language (Higher Level) Equivalency Course Syllabus

Pass Rate

To achieve a grade C in English, candidates are required to achieve 55% that equates to 44 marks out of a total of 80.

Exam Structure

The two-hour exam comprises two sections:

Section A – Tests Your Reading Skills

Understanding non - fiction texts

Section B – Tests Your Writing skills

Producing non - fiction texts.

- Please note that you do have to answer all the questions on the exam paper.

Section A

Understanding non-fiction texts

- You will be provided with three media or non-fiction texts to read of which you will be asked four questions in total. There will be one question on each of the three texts, plus a fourth question which will ask you to compare the language in two of the texts.
- You will have one hour to answer all four questions within this section.
- The texts provided will be either media-related or non - fiction texts which means any type of text which has been written for a non - literary purpose including leaflets, articles, reports, biographies and travel writing.
- Each text will have a clear form, purpose and audience.
- There might also be a connection between the texts: possibly a similar theme such as 'healthy eating' or 'transport'.
- However, there will be clear differences between the texts in terms of the form, audience and purpose, enabling you to make comparisons between them.

Exam Assessment Objectives

In Section A of the exam, you need to demonstrate that you can:

- Provide an understanding of the texts' purpose and audience.



- Explain the content, audience and the purpose of the text.
- Highlight what a writer is saying and suggesting.
- Select quotations and examples from the text to support your answers.
- Make comparisons between the texts highlighting similarities or differences giving examples where appropriate.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the texts in terms of its audience appeal and intended purpose. Consider if the text successfully communicates to the reader.
- Show that you recognise the techniques used by the writers, highlighting specific words and phrases, plus presentational features used.
- Identify how the texts are organised and presented on the page noting the position of pictures, titles and texts and how they relate to each other.

Section B

Producing non-fiction texts

- You will be asked to complete two non-fiction writing tasks: the first task is shorter and is worth 16 marks whilst the second task is longer and worth 24 marks.
- You will have an hour to complete this section and you must answer both questions.
- You should aim to spend approximately 25 minutes on the shorter writing task and 35 minutes on the longer writing task including 5 minutes to check your work once you have completed each task.
- The first writing task will ask you to produce a relatively short non-fiction text such as a letter or e-mail and written in a functional style to inform or explain.
- The second writing task will require you to produce a longer non-fiction text such as a magazine or newspaper article in which you have an opportunity to develop your ideas in more detail. This might involve writing in a style to argue or persuade.
- You will be provided with a clear form, purpose and audience for each task; typically, the audience of the text will be mentioned in the task as follows:
'Write an e - mail to a friend to let them know about...'

If an audience is not mentioned, always consider that you are writing for the examiner.

- The requested tasks might have a connection with the theme of the texts you read in Section A, so it is possible that you can use some of the ideas from these texts in your own writing.



Exam Assessment Objectives

In Section B of the exam, you need to demonstrate that you can:

- Use your writing skills to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively to the reader using a style that is both interesting and concise.
- * Demonstrate that you can write in a particular form such as a letter or newspaper article and for a specific audience including those from a particular age group.
- Illustrate an organised structure to your writing by imaginative use of sentences and paragraphs.
- Provide evidence of your vocabulary skills by using interesting words and sentence structures incorporating examples of repetition and contrast; also consider combining short and long sentences to add variety to your writing.
- Crucially, ensure that you avoid any spelling mistakes or punctuation errors thus highlighting your attention to detail. Consider introducing a range of punctuation into your writing including question marks and semi-colons as well as commas and full stops.