

Module Synopsis – Certificate of General English

Reading

Upon successful completion of the unit, students should be able to progressively:

- read very short, simple texts, find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables, and understand short, simple personal letters. Plan, use appropriate lexical resources, edit as well as style their essays in structured paragraphs.
- read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints, and understand contemporary literary prose.
- understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style, and understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to the field.

Assessment weighing: Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%

Writing

Upon successful completion of the unit, students should be able to progressively:

- write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate need, and can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.
- write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests, can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view, can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.
- express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length, can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues, and can select a style that is appropriate to the reader I have in mind.

Assessment weighing: Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%.

Listening

Upon successful completion of the unit, students should be able to progressively:

- understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment), and can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.
- understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes, and can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.
- understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly, and can understand TV programmes and films without much effort.

Assessment weighing: Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%.

Speaking

Upon successful completion of the unit, students should be able to progressively:

- communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities, and can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself, can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.
- can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible, can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views, can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest., can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
- express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes, can formulate as and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skilfully to those of other speakers, can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

Assessment weighing: Coursework: 60% Examination: 40%.