



First Language English

IGCSE English as a First Language



KS4: YEARS 10 AND 11

CURRICULUM: 2025-26

Subject: English

Course Title: Cambridge IGCSE First Language English

Why study this subject:

The course allows students to:

- develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing
- learn how to use a wide-range of vocabulary, and the correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- develop a personal style and an awareness of the audience being addressed.

Students are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used. Cambridge IGCSE First Language English also develops more general analysis and communication skills such as synthesis, inference, and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

Successful candidates are well-prepared for further study in AS Level English.

Aims of this subject:

- to enable students to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing
- to enable students to understand and respond appropriately to what they hear, read and experience
- to encourage students to enjoy and appreciate variety of language
- to complement students' other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application
- to promote students' personal development and an understanding of themselves and others

Assessment at a glance:

All candidates take papers 1 and 2. They are eligible for grades A to G.

Paper 1: Reading Passages (Extended) 2 hours (80 marks) - 50% of the total marks.

Structured and extended writing questions. Questions will be based on three reading texts.

Externally assessed

Paper 2: Paper 3 Directed Writing and Composition 2 hours (80 marks) - 50% of the total marks.

Extended writing question and a composition task.

Externally assessed

Curriculum content:

Reading

- Demonstrate understanding of written texts, and of the words and phrases within them
- Summarise and use material for a specific context
- Develop, analyse and evaluate facts, ideas and opinions
- Demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve their effects and influence readers
- Select appropriate information for specific purposes
- Recognise and respond to linguistic devices, figurative language and imagery.

In developing reading skills, candidates will engage with a range of genres and text types from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, including literature, fiction and non-fiction, and other forms of writing, such as discursive essays, reviews and articles. This study will include focus on writers' use of language and style and the ways in which writers achieve effects and influence readers. Candidates should study how influence may include fact, ideas, perspectives, opinions and bias.

Writing

- Express what is thought, felt and imagined
- Organise and convey facts, ideas and opinions effectively
- Demonstrate a varied vocabulary appropriate to the context
- Demonstrate an effective use of sentence structures
- Demonstrate an understanding of audience, purpose and form
- Demonstrate accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

As developing writers themselves, candidates will be introduced to a range of writing skills, including the ability to create and compose texts with a variety of forms and purposes, e.g. descriptive, narrative, discursive, argumentative and persuasive. This study will include focus on the following text types: letter, report, article, journal, speech, interview and summary.

Careers

The ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing is at the heart of nearly all subjects at IGCSE and beyond.

As English is a global language your ability to communicate and write effectively will stand you in good stead whichever career path you choose. Most careers welcome applicants who have good communication skills and most universities require a grade C or above in English Language for you to gain acceptance on a course.

Studying English opens up a number of career options. Here are just some of the possible career destinations:

- Media Industry
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Tourism
- Hospitality and Hotel Management
- Personnel / Management
- Customer service
- Public relations
- Law
- Social services