

Course Outline

Course Title	: English Enhancement
Course Code	: LUE1003
Year of Study	: Any time, but students are encouraged to take it as soon as possible given the remedial nature of the course
No. of Credits/Term	: Non-credit bearing
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional + Independent Learning
Contact Hours Per Week	: 2 hours of tutorial plus at least 4 hours of independent learning
Total Teaching Hours	: A total of 28 teaching hours (2 teaching hours per week) plus 56 hours of independent hours (4 hours of independent learning per week) totalling not less than 84 hours of teaching and learning in a term
Category	: Flagged students* admitted from the 2021-22 intake must take this course <u>before their second attempt of taking Password</u> and students admitted in 2020-21 or before can take this course as an optional non-credit bearing course. This course is NOT part of the credit-bearing ELE curriculum and its result does not constitute any consequence for fulfilling the English language graduation requirement. *Those score 5.5 (overall band) or below in the PASSWORD English Test or equivalent standard
Medium of Instruction	: English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This non-credit bearing course is designed to enhance participants' English proficiency through a step-by-step, theme-based, integrated approach.

While students in Lingnan generally have good English reading skills (usually above 6 on the scale of IELTS), this course specially focuses on scaffolding the essentials and fundamentals of the English language, so that students can better equip themselves with a better knowledge and awareness of English grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation features, as well as writing, speaking and listening strategies; all of which are of utmost importance for students' development as a proficient English user at university level. With a thematic-based interactive approach, this course can help students to overcome the more challenging components of English. At the same time, the tailor-made independent learning component of this course will help cultivate students' capability as an effective self-learner.

This enhancement course is for those who score 5.5 (overall band) or below in their first attempt of taking the PASSWORD English Test (to be abbreviated as PASSWORD) or equivalent standard. Lingnan University has adopted PASSWORD to evaluate students' ability right from their first term of study. While IELTS is a graduation requirement at the university, PASSWORD can be regarded as an indicator of students' progress in mastering the English language skills. Since PASSWORD is benchmarked against IELTS, the two tests bear close resemblance to one another and students' performance on PASSWORD should closely reflect their

potential score on IELTS. While CEAL offers *LUE3004 IELTS Preparation* course, which is mainly focused on IELTS examination skills and practice, the intended learning outcomes of this enhancement course differ significantly from it because it is designed to help flagged students make substantial gains in their fundamental language skills with the hope of leading them to achieve better scores in both language tests.

This course adopts a different approach than other ELE courses. While other courses offer focus on key academic and professional genres as well as professional communication skills, this course is intended to build upon the basic language skills needed to make improvements in language proficiency and enhance students' independent learning skills through a substantial online and homework component.

AIMS

The main aims of this course are to enhance the foundation of English grammar usage, expand vocabulary and sharpen examination skills on the writing, listening, and speaking portions of PASSWORD, which ultimately better prepares students for IELTS. Structured thematically, the course provides a bottom-up, step-by-step approach to enhance your understanding of the essential items in formulating accurate sentence patterns, using appropriate vocabulary, and raising the awareness of grammatical precision. The main objective of the course is to guide you to master the fundamental writing, listening and speaking skills in contexts. Upon completion of the course, you will be able to write logical and grammatically correct sentences, listen for keywords and gist accompanied with note-taking skills and speak with more confidence.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to identify grammatical rules and their proper usage in context
2. Master the basic grammatical structures of English language sentences in writing
3. Expand vocabulary to produce more complex sentences in both written and spoken forms
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply word and sentence variety in writing
5. Demonstrate understanding of necessary examination skills in the writing, listening and speaking tests
6. Demonstrate the ability to locate keywords in audio texts and apply note-taking strategies
7. Demonstrate the ability to speak fluently and logically in the speaking tests
8. Learn to independently make progress in sharpening examination skills

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The course is organized into topics which revolve around everyday life and issues which are of interest to young adults. The components of grammar items, vocabulary, writing, speaking, and listening that will be covered in this course are listed in the table below.

Unit themes	Communication; experiences; travelling; personal and social change; sports and hobbies; food; innovation; the Arts; and psychology.
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Grammar items	Tenses; passive voice; modals; relative clauses; conditional sentences; reported speech.
Vocabulary	Theme-based vocabulary items; various forms of words; collocations; and phrasal verbs.
Listening	Listen to check predictions; listen for the main ideas, signposting language, main and supporting points; listen for problems and solutions, definitions of new words, and phrases that support an argument.
Writing	Different text types including a report, an informal email, an email of complaint, a short essay, an article for a magazine, a reply in an online discussion forum, a biography and a review.
Speaking	Features in connected speech including the schwa /ə/, intonation and stress, word stress, verbs with two syllables, sentence stress, rhythm (pausing), diphthongs, and vowel sounds.

These components will be embedded in each unit in a theme-based, inductive approach.

TEACHING METHODS

This is a language enhancement course which is designed to incorporate course tutor guidance, carefully structured teaching and learning activities, and independent learning materials to help students develop their writing, listening and speaking skills. The teaching and learning activities vary from individual work to pair work, group discussion, and online participation. A variety of independent learning exercises is also provided for students to sharpen their productive and receptive skills outside the classroom.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes will be measured through **100% continuous assessments**, with details as follows:

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods					
	Speaking	Writing	Listening	Independent Learning Materials	Independent Online Activities	Attendance & participation
1. Demonstrate the ability to identify grammatical rules and their proper usage in context	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

2. Master the basic grammatical structures of English language sentences in writing		✓		✓	✓	✓
3. Expand vocabulary to produce more complex sentences in both written and spoken forms	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply word and sentence variety in writing		✓		✓	✓	✓
5. Demonstrate understanding of necessary examination skills in the writing, listening, and speaking tests	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. Demonstrate the ability to locate keywords in audio texts and apply note-taking strategies			✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Demonstrate the ability to speak fluently and logically in the speaking tests	✓			✓	✓	✓
8. Learn to independently make progress in sharpening examination skills				✓	✓	✓

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW & SCHEDULE

The four assessment tasks are designed specifically to evaluate your improvement of language skills throughout the course. The independent learning activities are given a heavy weighting because it is expected that you will make extra time and effort beyond the classroom to broaden your vocabulary, pay closer attention to grammatical accuracy and strengthen your writing and listening skills. Some online language learning applications may also be used to enhance your independent learning.

Assessments	Details	Deadlines
Speaking assessment (20%)	Students will conduct a discussion in groups of 3-4 based on the textbook units taught. The discussion time is 12-15 minutes.	Week 12
Listening assessment (20%)	Students will take a 30-minute listening test which consists of five sections. The assessment is to be <u>conducted outside tutorial</u> time.	Week 8
Writing assessment (20%)	Students will be asked to write a 350-word essay with a choice of two titles. The assessment is to be conducted <u>outside</u> tutorial time.	Week 10
Independent learning activities (30%)	You will complete a series of independent materials on a weekly basis and regular online textbook activities based on grammar, vocabulary, speaking, and writing. You will also make use of English Language Support Service (ELSS) provided by CEAL.	Throughout the 14 weeks
Attendance & participation (10%)	You are expected to attend all lessons punctually. Lateness of more than 15 minutes will result in being marked absent from that hour of class. You are also expected to actively participate in class and independent learning materials.	Throughout the 14 weeks

Your work on this course will be assessed to the following standards:

Grade	Standard	Percentage	Grade Points
A	Excellent	88% < 100%	4.00
A-		80% < 88%	3.67
B+	Good	75% < 80%	3.33
B		70% < 75%	3.00
B-		65% < 70%	2.67
C+	Fair	60% < 65%	2.33
C		55% < 60%	2.00
C-		50% < 55%	1.67
D+	Pass	45% < 50%	1.33
D		40% < 45%	1.00
F	Failure	<40%	0.00

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK (NOT PROVIDED)

Please buy the following book before the course commences:

J. Rees, R. Dunnett, S. Taylore-Knowles, & M. Mann. (2019). *Language Hub Intermediate Student's Book*. Macmillan Education.

In order to complete your independent learning activities, you must buy this book which comes with a unique code to access your online student book and workbook.

Important Notes:

1. Students are expected to spend at least a total of 6 hours (i.e. 2 hours of class contact and 4 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
2. Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
3. Students are required to submit all their written assignments using Turnitin.
4. To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.
5. Students who wish to submit their EGLR document should file for an application within two weeks from the start date of each term.