

Course Title	:	IELTS Preparation
Course Code	:	LUE3004
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Tutorial
Contact hours per week	:	2-hour tutorial x 2 per week
Total Teaching Hours	:	56 hours/4 hours per week
Category	:	ELE Elective
Pre-requisite	:	During or after LUE1002 University English II
Medium of Instruction	:	English

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Specifically designed to equip students to meet the graduation requirements of Lingnan University, this course helps familiarize students with the formats and skills of IELTS and develops their English competency. In this relatively short IELTS preparation course, emphases are strategically placed on the Writing and the Speaking Papers, the weaker areas of Hong Kong students. It is believed that on completion of the course it will greatly boost students' confidence and therefore significantly raise their bandings. Writing and speaking practices will be given regularly, full-set test/exam will be arranged twice, and through various other forms of activities participants will receive frequent individual feedback to further strengthen their performances. The tactics for handling the Listening and the Reading Papers will be covered too. Moreover, the development of clearer and more comprehensible pronunciation, useful vocabulary, relevant grammatical structures etc will be highlighted. Students are also guided to set individual plans and goals for self-study, and encouraged to carry out the plan successfully for their IELTS, or Password, preparation.

AIMS

The course aims:

- to enhance students' knowledge and awareness of the IELTS test
- to familiarize students with the structure of the IELTS test
- to equip students with different test taking techniques and strategies
- to give students the opportunity to practise and receive feedback on the individual components of the test
- to allow students to have a better understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses in the four language skills
- to help students devise their individual action plan and carry out self-studies to achieve their target IELTS bandings.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should have:

1. identified the formats and requirements of IELTS
2. applied useful test-taking strategies for IELTS
3. practised relevant listening and speaking skills
4. practised relevant academic reading and writing skills
5. employed useful vocabulary and consolidated important grammar points
6. upgraded pronunciation in key areas
7. implemented an individual action plan
8. collated, presented and reflected on artefacts in an eportfolio

INDICATIVE CONTENT

The course will include practice tests for the four IELTS papers (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing). There will also be guided activities designed to enhance language skills in specific areas, as

well as test taking strategies, such as process writing, data description, essay planning, organization, prediction, deriving meaning of unknown words from context, skimming, and scanning for information. Through these tasks, students will learn to understand the IELTS test and how they can utilize and develop their own knowledge of English to achieve their test goals. The themes have been selected for their relevance to the IELTS examination.

TEACHING METHODS

Classroom material is presented in the form of tutorials. Group, pair and individual work will be assigned for students to practise relevant skills through activities and exercises.

A theme-based approach is adopted in order to contextualize language use. This enables the vocabulary associated with social issues and cultural activities to be activated.

Formative feedback is provided throughout the course and students are directed towards self-access materials to extend their learning experience.

MEASUREMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the course students will learn about the structure of the IELTS test, increasing their understanding of the test and learning various test taking strategies. (ILO1)

During the course students will practise the four skills examined in the test and these will be continuously assessed through speaking and writing tests and listening and reading assessments. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4, ILO5)

The IELTS Speaking test will be a full-length IELTS speaking test conducted in class and encompassing all three parts of the test. The topics of each test will vary but will be based on subjects with which students are familiar. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO5, ILO6)

In IELTS Writing Task 1 students will be provided with a graph, an infographic, or a process chart and will have to write approximately 150 words describing this. In IELTS Writing Task 2 students will have to plan and write a 250-word academic essay on a given topic, paying attention to structure, organization and language. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO4, ILO5)

IELTS Reading and Listening Tests will assess students’ familiarity with the test as well as their awareness of test taking strategies. It will also assess their reading and listening skills and their capacity to understand a variety of speakers. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3, ILO4)

Students will create a reflective eportfolio to show evidence and reflection of progress. (ILO7, ILO8)

Learning Outcomes	Mid Term Test				Final Exam				ePortfolio
	IELTS Speaking	IELTS Writing	IELTS Reading	IELTS Listening	IELTS Speaking	IELTS Writing	IELTS Reading	IELTS Listening	
ILO1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ILO2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ILO3	✓			✓	✓			✓	
ILO4		✓	✓			✓	✓		
ILO5	✓	✓			✓	✓			
ILO6	✓				✓				
ILO7									✓
ILO8									✓

ASSESSMENT

A. Mid-term test (22%)	B. Final Exam (38%)
Writing: 7%	Writing: 12%
Speaking: 7%	Speaking: 12%
Reading: 4%	Reading: 7%
Listening: 4%	Listening: 7%

C. Attendance & Participation: 10%

D. Eportfolio: 30%

- to be collected throughout the term:

Major components:
1. Action plan & reflection on the portfolio
2. Speaking and Writing practices (to be shared online) and reflection
3. 8 or more pieces of SCRIBO writing and reflection
4. 2 or more ELSS visits and reflection
5. Practice papers (at least 2 Reading & 2 Listening) and reflection
6. 1 (online) quiz on vocabulary, tenses and sentence structures
7. Other self-study activities chosen by students themselves

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

NetLanguages IELTS preparation course. (2005). Net Languages.

Supplementary Readings:

- (1) Cambridge IELTS Past Tests
- (2) The Official Guide to IELTS, Student Book, Pauline Cullen, Amanda French, Vanessa Jakeman, 2014, Cambridge University Press
- (3) IELTS Trainer, Louise Hashemi, Barbara Thomas, 2011, Cambridge University Press
- (4) IELTS Intensive: A Short Course for IELTS Success. Louis Rogers & Nick Thorner, Delta Publishing, Latest edition

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 12 hours (i.e. 4 hours of class contact and 8 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 writing assignment(s) using Turnitin (for online mode only).

(4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available at <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.