

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCE NORMAL LEVEL (ACADEMIC)

(SYLLABUS A 1189)

AIMS

At the end of their secondary education, students will be able to communicate effectively in English. They will be able to:

- listen to, read and view with understanding, accuracy and critical appreciation, a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts from print, non-print and electronic sources
- speak, write and make presentations in internationally acceptable English that is grammatical, fluent and appropriate for purpose, audience, context and culture. At higher levels of proficiency, students will speak and write for academic purposes and creative expression, using language that is inventive and imaginative
- think through, interpret and evaluate fiction and non-fiction texts from print and electronic sources to analyse: how language is used to evoke responses and construct meaning; how information is presented; and how different modes of presentation create impact
- interact effectively with people from their own or different cultures.

These aims form the basis of a course of study; they may not all be translated into Assessment Objectives for formal examination.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates should be able to:

IN PAPER 1

- (i) communicate clearly and effectively to suit purpose, audience, context and culture
- (ii) write in internationally acceptable English
- (iii) plan, organise and write coherently and cohesively
- (iv) write relevantly, showing development of ideas
- (v) write creatively on a given topic or situation
- (vi) use appropriate vocabulary with clarity and precision
- (vii) use correct grammar and punctuation, and spell accurately.

IN PAPER 2

- (i) comprehend texts at the literal and inferential levels
- (ii) understand how the purpose of various texts is achieved through text organisation and the use of cohesive devices, grammar and vocabulary
- (iii) identify the main ideas and details in texts
- (iv) use contextual clues to understand the information present in a text
- (v) synthesise, summarise and organise information
- (vi) give reasons to support an opinion or a response.

IN PAPER 3**Reading Aloud**

- (i) *Pronunciation and Articulation*: read a passage with good pronunciation and clear articulation
- (ii) *Rhythm and Fluency*: read with appropriate rhythm and stress to achieve a well-paced, fluent rendering of a passage
- (iii) *Expressiveness*: read with appropriate variation of pitch and tone in order to convey the information, ideas and feelings in a passage.

Picture Discussion

- (iv) *Interpretation and Explanation*: interpret and explain the situations in the picture with supporting details
- (v) *Language*: use a range of appropriate vocabulary and structures to complete the task
- (vi) *Coherence*: develop ideas in a clear and coherent manner.

Conversation

- (vii) *Personal Response*: give a personal response to the theme of the picture and the passage
- (viii) *Clarity of Expression*: express himself/herself clearly and succinctly in a conversation using appropriate vocabulary and structures
- (ix) *Engagement in Conversation*: discuss issues that arise with the examiner stemming from the picture and the passage.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

There are three compulsory papers:

Paper	Description	Range of Marks	Weighting	Duration
Paper 1 Composition	This paper is divided into two sections:	Candidates answer both Section 1 and Section 2.	Total marks: 60	1 hr 45 mins
	Section 1 – Free Writing	Six topics are set. Candidates choose one topic and write 250-400 words on it.	30	
	Section 2 – Situational Writing	Candidates write 180-250 words on the question.	30	

Paper 2 Language Use and Comprehension	This paper is divided into two sections:	All questions are compulsory.	Total marks: 80	40%	1 hr 40 mins
	Section 1	Candidates complete a cloze passage by filling in 15 blanks.	15		
	Section 2	This section contains two comprehension passages of a total length of about 1000 words.			
	Questions based on Passage A	Comprehension questions.	25		
	Questions based on Passage B	Comprehension questions. Five multiple choice questions on vocabulary. Summary question (candidates write a 130-word summary, not including the introductory words).	15 5 20		
Paper 3 Oral Communication	This paper consists of three parts:	All parts are compulsory.	Total marks: 40	20%	About 20 mins (including 10 mins preparation time)
Part 1 – Reading Aloud	All three parts are thematically linked.	12			
Part 2 – Picture Discussion		12			
Part 3 – Conversation		16			