

English as an Additional Language

EDEXCEL IGCSE

Why study English as an Additional Language?

The IGCSE English as a Second Language course is taken by international students on the one-year IGCSE course, and will also be offered to some students on the two-year GCSE course in Senior School. The course is designed to help you develop the language skills you need to succeed in an English boarding school, and to help you prepare for continuing your education in Sixth Form and beyond.

The course will help you to:

- Understand the main ideas of complex written texts on both concrete and abstract topics
- Write clear, detailed texts on a range of subjects
- Understand the main ideas of complex spoken English on both concrete and abstract topics
- Explain a viewpoint on a topical issue, giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options
- Interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers possible without strain for either party



What will I learn?

By the end of the course, students will have developed the ability to:

- Understand the overall message of a text
- Understand in detail a range of texts, identifying finer points of detail
- Scan a range of texts in order to locate relevant details
- Follow a line of discussion to its logical conclusion
- Identify a writer or speaker's viewpoint and attitude, stated and implied
- Distinguish between facts, ideas and opinions
- Write clear, accurate, well-structured longer texts on a range of subjects and for a range of audiences and purposes
- Summarise information provided to them in text form for a given purpose and audience
- Understand spoken English, spoken at normal speed, likely to be encountered in social, educational or employment contexts
- Understand a conversation between two or more speakers where information is being negotiated and exchanged
- Communicate in speech comprehensibly and clearly
- Use a range of vocabulary, grammar and structures appropriately

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed on two papers:

Paper 1

Reading and Writing – 2 hours

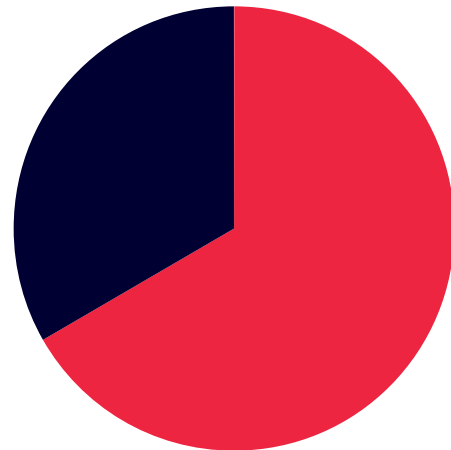
Students answer questions on 3 reading passages of increasing difficulty. In the writing section, students produce one short piece of writing such as an email (75-100 words), and a longer piece in the form of an article or report (100-150 words). The final question involves writing a summary based on one or two input texts.

Paper 2

Listening – 45 minutes

Students listen to 3 different recordings (each played twice) and answer different question types to test a range of skills.

The listening, reading and writing components carry equal weighting.



66.6% - Reading and Writing
33.3% - Listening

What can I do after I've completed the course?

The course provides excellent preparation for study at Sixth Form level. Students with a pass at Level 5 or higher will be able to approach their A Level or IB course with confidence. The course also provides useful preparation for those students who later go on to do IELTS as they will have been introduced to some of the topics and question types.