THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

A LEVEL ENGLISH

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and structured approach to developing their English language proficiency and skills for either the Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) or Cambridge Advanced English Exams. (CAE). Both exams are valuable in such that they are globally recognised qualifications that can significantly assist international students in transitioning into their university studies.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

Candidates will have previously engaged with English in everyday conversations, media use or in their academic classes, so they will have brought with them some understanding of English language learning, which they can further develop on the course.

EXAM BOARD

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH ASSESSMENT

COURSE CONTENT

Foundations of English Language Proficiency

- Introduce students to the four language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Focus on developing and building vocabulary, sentence structure, and grammatical accuracy.
- Develop basic communication skills for everyday situations.

Intermediate Language Development

- Enhance reading comprehension and expand vocabulary.
- Improve writing skills through essays, reports, and descriptive writing.
- Develop speaking skills for discussions, presentations, and debates.
- Introduce strategies for effective listening and note-taking.

FCE Exam Preparation

- In-depth study of FCE exam format and requirements.
- Practice FCE-specific tasks such as multiple-choice, gapped text, and sentence transformation.
- Intensive writing practice for formal letters, reviews, and articles.
- Practice speaking tasks including individual long turns and collaborative tasks.

CAE Exam Preparation and Advanced Language Proficiency

- Detailed analysis of CAE exam structure and expectations.
- Practice CAE-specific tasks in Use of English (multiple-choice cloze, word formation, and key word transformations) and reading.
- Advanced writing practice for essays, reports, proposals, and reviews.
- Enhance speaking skills for giving opinions, discussing abstract topics, and engaging in complex conversations.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Regular formative and summative assessments to monitor student progress, identify areas of improvement and offer individualised study plans.
- Full Mock FCE / CAE exams in the run up to the actual external dates (December, March, May or June).

Additional Activities

- Engage students in debates, discussions, and presentations on current affairs and topics relevant to their programme of study.
- Incorporate authentic materials such as news articles, podcasts, and videos.
- Encourage self-study using online resources and practice exams.

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ASSESSMENT: FCE (B2) EXAM FORMAT

PAPER	CONTENT	PURPOSE
Reading and Use of English (1 hour 15 minutes)	**7** parts/**52** questions	Shows you can deal confidently with different types of text, such as fiction, newspapers and magazines. Tests your use of English with tasks that show how well you can control your grammar and vocabulary.
Writing (1 hour 20 minutes) r	**2** parts	Requires you to be able to produce two different pieces of writing, such as letters, reports, reviews and essays.
Listening (about 40 minutes)	**4** parts/**30** questions	Requires you to be able to follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as news programmes, presentations and everyday conversations.
Speaking (14 minutes per pair of candidates; 20 minutes	**4** parts	Shows how good your spoken English is as you take part in conversation by asking/answering questions and discussing topics. Your Speaking test will be face to face with one or two other candidates and two examiners. One of the examiners (who could be online, examining remotely) talks to you and the other

per group of three) See sample paper		examiner listens. This makes your test more realistic and more reliable. Examiners may use their mobile phones for entering marks using an app.

ASSESSMENT: CAE (C1) EXAM FORMAT

PAPER	CONTENT	PURPOSE
Reading and Use of English (1 hour 30 minutes)	**8** parts/ **56** questions	Shows you can deal confidently with different types of text, such as fiction, newspapers and magazines. Tests your use of English with different types of exercise that show how well you can control your grammar and vocabulary.
Writing (1 hour 30 minutes)	**2** parts	You create two different pieces of writing, such as essays, letters/emails, proposals, reports and reviews.
Listening (about 40 minutes)	**4** parts/ **30** questions	Tests your ability to follow and understand a range of spoken materials, such as interviews, radio broadcasts, presentations, talks and everyday conversations.
Speaking (15 minutes per pair of candidates; 23 minutes per	**4** parts	Shows you can take part in a conversation by answering and asking simple questions. Your Speaking test will be conducted usually face to face with one or two other candidates and two examiners. One of the examiners (who could be online, examining remotely) talks to you and the other examiner

group of three)		listens. This makes your test more realistic and more reliable. Examiners may use their mobile phones for entering marks using an app.

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
Cambridge English Grammar and Vocabulary for First / First for Schools	978-1107481060	Laura Matthews Barabara thomas Louise Hashemi
Cambridge English Grammar and Vocabulary for Advanced	978-1107481114	Martin Hewings Simon Haines

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

English will enhance your skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Furthermore, it will provide you with the confidence to present, debate, infer and discuss, skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. FCE and CAE English language qualifications are recognized by universities as an English as a second language qualification required for university entry.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

High level English language skills are essential for all university studies. English is popular with students who wish to study History, English Language, Politics and Business at university and enter careers in Law, Journalism, International Relations, Education and the Design / Communication sector.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones