THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

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 Advanced Certificate (CAE) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). 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 will have an understanding of English language learning, which they can further develop on the course.

EXAM BOARD

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH ASSESSMENT / IELTS

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 range, 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.

IELTS Exam Preparation

- In-depth study of the IELTS exam format and requirements.
- Practice IELTS specific tasks such as multiple-choice, gapped text, and sentence completion.
- Intensive writing practice for graph / flow chart / diagram description and essay writing.
- Practice speaking tasks including individual long turns and discussion.

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

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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IELTS ASSESSMENT FORMAT

PAPER	CONTENT	PURPOSE
Reading (1 hour)	**11** parts/ **40** questions	Texts are taken from books, journals, magazines and newspapers, and have been written for a non-specialist audience. All the topics are of general interest. They deal with issues which are interesting, recognisably appropriate and accessible to test takers entering undergraduate or postgraduate courses or seeking professional registration. The passages may be written in a variety of styles, for example narrative, descriptive or discursive/argumentative. At least one text contains detailed logical argument. Texts may contain non-verbal materials such as diagrams, graphs or illustrations. If texts contain technical terms a simple glossary is provided.
Writing (1 hour)	**2** parts	In writing task 1, test takers may be asked to describe facts or figures presented in one or more graphs, charts or tables on a related topic; or they may be given a diagram of a machine, a device or a process and asked to explain how it works. They should write in an academic or semi-formal / neutral styles and include the most important and the most relevant points in the diagram. In writing task 2, test rakers are given a topic to write about an academic or semi-formal/neutral style. Answers should be a discursive consideration of the relevant issues.
Listening (about 30 minutes)	**4** parts/4**0** questions	The first two parts deal with situations set in everyday social contexts. In Part 1, there is a conversation between two speakers (for example, a conversation about travel arrangements), and in Part 2, there is a monologue in (for example, a speech about local facilities). The final two parts deal with situations set in educational and training contexts. In Part 3, there is a conversation

		between two main speakers (for example, two university students in discussion, perhaps guided by a tutor), and in Part 4, there is a monologue on an academic subject.
Speaking (11-14 minutes)	**3** parts	Part 1 – the examiner will ask you general questions about yourself and a range of familiar topics, such as home, family, work, studies and interests. Part 2 – you will be given a card which asks you to talk about a particular topic. You will have one minute to prepare before speaking for two minutes. The examiner will then ask you one or two questions on the same topic. Part 3 – you will be asked further questions about the topic in part 2. These will give you the opportunity to discuss more abstract ideas and issues.

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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 group of three)	**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 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
The Complete Guide to IELTS	978-1285837802	Bruce Rogers Nick Kenny
Cambridge English Grammar and Vocabulary for Advanced	978-1107481114	Martin Hewings Simon Haines

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

English will enhance skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Furthermore, it will provide students with the confidence to present, debate, infer and discuss, skills which are highly valued by universities and employers. The CAE and IELTS 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 is 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