

PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH COURSE, PART 2 & 3

Developed and awarded by SIM, Singapore

COURSE AIMS

This course aims to improve all four Academic English language skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing, through two parts: from IELTS 6.0 to IELTS 6.5 in Part 2 and IELTS 6.5 to IELTS 7.0 in Part 3. The pre-sessional English course, in particular, is designed for students who need to improve their knowledge of spoken and written English in preparation for academic study at master level at the University of Birmingham. This course, among other things, seeks to provide opportunities for students to:

- Develop skills in understanding and analysing academic texts and use them in writing, listening, and speaking
- Improve abilities to speak in academic contexts, with emphasis on oral and digital presentations
- Analyse and summarise academic texts and develop critical thinking
- Express arguments, writing and discussion more clearly, concisely and in a dynamic way in Academic English

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

Reading

- Understand a variety of different academic text types
- Skim, scan and focus on target material in all types of reading passages
- Identify the elements of a text and, where required, reproduce these elements in their own writing
- Achieve a deep understanding of the various questions' types found in the reading exam and how to address them
- Deduce the meaning of unknown vocabulary from their context
- Recognise a writer's point of view or claims and their implications
- Complete SIM reading tests in the allotted time

Writing

- Respond to the two tasks in the exam, following instructions and making the best use of the time available
- Write a variety of different types of essays, such as persuasive, cause and effect and problem-solution
- Write a brief report analysing graphs, tables and charts
- Interpret and describe statistical data using appropriate language and grammar
- Demonstrate enhanced vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Use suitable language and vocabulary for specific assignments with grammatical precision
- Summarize the main ideas of various types of texts

- Develop an argument and back it up in a structured essay
- Develop the ability to edit written work accurately
- Complete the SIM test tasks within the allotted time

Speaking

- Recognise the different sections and requirements of the SIM speaking test
- Confidently carry out a conversation on a topic, for example, family, hobbies, or work
- Evaluate and self-correct their speaking
- Formulate, express, and defend opinions using appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures
- Speculate about general topics
- Fluently answer questions with clear pronunciation
- Use appropriate stress, intonation, and speed patterns in their conversation
- Complete a speaking test within the allotted time

Listening

- Recognise the presentation and question patterns in SIM's listening tests and how to address them
- Develop predictive skills when preparing for listening tasks
- Demonstrate understanding of academic and everyday discourse such as conversation and talks
- Identify the main ideas and distinguish relevant supporting details of academic and everyday listening texts
- Demonstrate improved listening skills for overall comprehension and details
- Identify numbers, dates, time, letters, etc. correctly
- Accurately convey information gathered from listening to written answers within the set time frame

Vocabulary

- Build academic vocabulary
- Broaden vocabulary over a wide range of common topics
- Strengthen understanding of common collocations in everyday and academic contexts
- Develop awareness of the link between word families to enable easier understanding of the connections between questions and reading and listening texts
- Strengthen paraphrasing skills
- Develop the ability to understand metaphorical language
- Use digital literacy tools to develop vocabulary skills

Grammar

- Strengthen grammar foundations in Part One of the course
- Deepen understanding of more complex grammar structures in Part Two of the course
- Use digital literacy tools to develop grammar skills