

B1 SYLLABUS

Knowledge and understanding

The learner will know and understand phonology, morphology, syntax and lexis at level B1 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

The learner will be able to understand and communicate in writing and speaking (with generally intelligible pronunciation) in most familiar situations. They will attempt to use complex language and show the ability to compensate for any communication difficulties by using repair strategies.

Method of assessment

The acquisition of language and its application is monitored (with feedback) during the course with exercises and communication activities, particularly in groups and pairs, based on grammar, lexis, pronunciation, reading, listening and speaking. Three writing tasks are set for homework, corrected and awarded a mark.

A formal assessment is given at the end of the course with the final test.

Expected learning outcomes

Learning outcomes will be achieved through attendance of the course (focussing on practice of the language studied), regular homework (exercises and writing tasks) and self study.

Syllabus

Grammar: At the end of the course the learner will show a good degree of control of a range of simple grammatical forms and some more complex language. They will communicate in writing and speaking with reasonable accuracy in familiar contexts and, although errors may occur, these will not impede communication.

Grammar structures studied: present simple and continuous, action and non-action verbs; future forms: present continuous, going to, will/won't; present perfect and past simple; present perfect + for/since; present perfect continuous; comparatives and superlatives; articles: a/an, the, no article; can, could, be able to; reflexive pronouns; modals of obligation: must, have to, should; past continuous; past perfect; usually and used to; passives (all tenses); modals of deduction: might, can't, must; first conditional and future time clauses + when, until, etc; second conditional; reported speech (sentences and questions); gerunds and infinitives; quantifiers: a lot, much, many, (a) little, (a) few, too, enough; separable phrasal verbs; relative clauses: defining and non-defining; question tags.

Lexis: The learner will use a wide range of simple and some more complex vocabulary appropriately to give and exchange views on familiar topics and everyday situations. On less familiar topics they will use circumlocutions sufficiently well to be able to express themselves.

Lexical areas and morphology studied: food and cooking; family, adjectives of personality; money; strong adjectives: exhausted, amazed, etc; transport; collocation: verbs / adjectives + prepositions; -ed/-ing adjectives; phone language; sport; relationships; cinema; the body; education; houses; shopping, making nouns from verbs; work; electronic devices, phrasal verbs; compound nouns; crime.

Phonology: The learner will be able to speak reasonably fluently and will be intelligible with generally appropriate intonation. Sentence and word stress will generally be accurate and individual sounds generally articulated clearly.

Phonological features studied: short and long vowel sounds; sentence stress; word stress; adjective endings; the letter 'o'; stress on strong adjectives; linking; silent consonants, linking; the letter 's'; diphthongs; the letter 'u'; the letters 'ai'; the letters 'ough' and 'augh'; intonation in question tags.

Prerequisites

To take the course, learners must show that they have attained level A2 on the CEFR.

Coursebook

Latham-Koenig, Oxenden, C., Lambert, J., English File Digital Gold B1/B1+, Fourth Edition, Student's Book & Workbook + Interactive Student's eBook + Interactive Entry Checker eBook + Online Practice + Entry Checker + Workbook Answer Key, Oxford, ISBN 9780194435796.

Final assessment

The final assessment is based on a computer test, speaking test and the highest mark awarded for the writing tasks set during the course.

Computer test (1 hour 30 minutes)

Listening: two passages (one monologue, one dialogue), multiple choice questions

Grammar: forty items (multiple choice questions)

Vocabulary: twenty items (multiple choice questions)

Reading: three texts (two with multiple choice questions, one with true/false questions)

Speaking test (20 minutes)

Two students with the course teacher

Part 1: Course teacher asks individual questions on familiar topics and everyday situations e.g. personal experiences, studies, home town (6 minutes)

Part 2: student discussion based on stimulus (question with five prompts) on a topic from those studied during the course (6 minutes)

Part 3: Course teacher asks questions connected with the topic in part 2 (6 minutes)

The score from the computer test is added to the combined scores from the speaking test and the writing task, with a weighting of 50 for the computer test and 50 for the speaking/writing task. The final assessment is expressed as a score out of 100, with 60/100 as the pass mark.

Teaching methods

Teacher led activities (presentation and explanation of language points)

Practice of language studied (exercises)

Skills practice (reading, writing, listening, speaking)

Group and pair work

Other information

The lessons will be held in English. Learners have to attend at least 80% of the course (60 out of the total 75 hours) to be eligible to take the final test. After successful completion of the course, the Open Badge, a digital tool for recognition of language skills, is awarded at level B1 on the CEFR.