

English Programme: Course Description

Who is this course for?

This programme is for students over the age of 16 and is suitable for students who wish to improve their general English for personal reasons, professional reasons, or for future studies in English. The programme also offers exam preparation classes.

On the full-time programme the lessons cover all aspects of English: speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Speaking and listening are given priority in the first lessons every morning.

There are 20 or 28 lessons (15 or 21 hours) of general English classes. At higher levels there are also exam preparation classes (for example, Cambridge FCE and CAE, as well as IELTS).

What will this course teach me?

The programme has 9 levels:

1. Beginner
2. Elementary
3. Upper Elementary
4. Pre-Intermediate
5. Early Intermediate
6. Intermediate
7. Upper Intermediate
8. Lower Advanced
9. Advanced

Levels 1, 2 and 3 will help you:

Listen and respond to spoken English, including simple stories, statements, questions and basic instructions.

Speak to communicate with the “survival English” you will need outside class as well as giving basic information about feelings and opinions on topics.

Read and understand short texts on familiar topics.

Read and get information from common signs and symbols.

Write to communicate basic information.

Levels 4 and 5 will help you:

Listen and respond to spoken English, including straightforward information, short narratives, explanations and instructions.

Speak to communicate information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics and to engage in discussion with one or more people to share understanding about familiar topics.

Read and understand short, straightforward texts on familiar topics.

Read and obtain information from short documents, signs and symbols.

Write to communicate information with some awareness of the person reading.

Level 6 will help you:

Listen and respond to spoken language, including straightforward information and narratives, and follow straightforward explanations and

instructions, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

Speak to communicate information, feelings and opinions on familiar topics, using appropriate formality, both face-to-face and on the telephone.

Engage in discussion with one or more people, making relevant points and responding to what others say to reach an understanding about familiar topics.

Read and understand short, straightforward texts on familiar topics accurately and without help.

Read and obtain information from a variety of everyday sources.

Write to communicate information and opinions with some adaptation to the intended audience.

Level 7 will help you:

Listen and respond to spoken language, including information and narratives, and follow explanations and instructions of varying lengths. Responses are adapted to speaker, and to context.

Speak to communicate information, ideas and opinions, adapting speech and content for the listener(s) and medium.

Engage in discussion with one or more people in familiar and unfamiliar situations, making clear and relevant contributions that respond to what others say and produce a shared understanding about different topics.

Read and understand straightforward texts of varying length

on a variety of topics accurately and independently.

Read and obtain information from a wide variety of different sources.

Write to communicate information, ideas and opinions clearly using appropriate length, format and style for the purpose and audience.

(We also offer exam preparation classes for Cambridge First Certificate and for IELTS at this level when there is enough demand.)

Levels 8 and 9 will aim to help you:

Read and understand a range of texts of varying complexity accurately and independently.

Read and obtain information of varying length and detail from different sources.

Write to communicate information, ideas and opinions clearly and effectively, using length, format, register and style appropriate to purpose, content and audience.

Listen and respond to spoken language, including extended information and narratives, and follow detailed explanations and multi-step instructions of varying length, adapting response to speaker, medium and context.

Speak to communicate straightforward and detailed information, ideas and opinions clearly, adapting speech and content to take account of the listener(s), medium, purpose and situation.

Engage in discussion with one or more people in a variety of different situations, making clear and effective

contributions that produce outcomes appropriate to purpose and topic.

Our course aims to meet the Common European Framework for Languages, Levels A1 to C2 and the English Speaking Union (ESU) levels.

Teaching Methods:

We use the Communicative Method of teaching. Students *use* English during the lessons to *learn* English. Students are expected to work together and participate in class activities. They are asked to work out rules for themselves and encouraged to become active learners. In general, more time is given to spoken English than written English, although all skills – reading, writing, speaking and listening are practiced in the class. Tutors choose the classroom activity to suit the needs of students, and the aims of the student. As a result, lessons may include audio-visual materials, lessons, role plays and drama, letter and report writing, individual and group presentations, language games and competitions, and practice tests.

Assessment:

There will be homework set 2 or 3 times per week. Students are expected to complete this in their free time, in the library or at home. Teachers use informal progress tests to check and confirm students' learning and progress during the course. These tests help decide if students are ready for the next level of classes, or need to study for more time at the same level. For students who want to take an exam or join the exam class we have formal tests to help

Certification:

All students who attend 80% or more of lessons receive a GEOS certificate and leavers report when they finish their programme. For students under 18 we send reports to parents.

Books and Learning Materials:

Students are expected to buy a course work book for each class. The school loans the students a student book. The School Self-Study Centre and Listening Centre has a range of student books, practice materials, graded readers and audio and audio-visual resources for students.

Examinations:

The School can arrange for you to take the Cambridge Exams – KET, PET, FCE, CAE, CPE – or the IELTS test. All of our courses offer some exam preparation activities, and exam courses are designed to prepare students to take the exam in the next 3 – 4 months.

Progression:

Students are able to move between classes based on the availability of classes. Students are able to move between levels after the start of their course only if their tutors agree. The School offers advice on progression to further and higher education in the UK.

Further Information:

Further information on the fees, application procedures and the School can be found in our brochure, or on our website at this address:
www.geos-brighton.com