English for Academic Purposes

**Objective:**

Students will be introduced to and practice skills which will enable them to deal effectively with the Ielts exam

Content:

Academic Vocabulary

* Collocations
* Synonyms
* Paraphrase
* The Academic Word List
* Applications to specific topics and functions, such as in writing and speaking tasks

Advanced Grammar

* Parallel Structure
* Noun Phrases
* Fragments, comma splices, run-on sentences
* Participle clauses
* Adverbial clauses
* Subject/verb agreement
* Quantifiers
* Comparatives (nouns, adverbs, not only adjectives)
* Cohesive devices
* Compound and complex sentences
* Determiners
* Misplaced modifiers
* Coordination and subordination
* Common mistakes for Vietnamese learners

Writing Task 1

1. How to analyze and describe

* Graphs –describing trends and comparing data
* Tables
* Maps
* Diagrams
* Processes

1. Specific language for expressing

* The topic
* The main idea
* Details for each type of task and subtask
* Correlations, assumptions or conclusions

Writing task 2

The main focus will be on writing task 1, but there will also be focus on applying grammar and vocabulary to writing sections of writing task 2

Material

Reading

* Ielts style topics
* Test taking skills
* Introduction to all types of questions and basic skills for answering them in short texts
* Identification of paraphrase
* Practice dealing with tricky questions
* Strategies for self improvement

Listening

* Ielts level listening tasks
* Ielts style listening tasks
* Error analysis
* Strategies for self improvement

Speaking

* Expressing opinions
* Debating
* Discussing current events
* Making predictions
* Dealing with problems and solutions
* Presenting
* Making effective descriptions
* Giving explanations

**IELTS 1**

**IELTS 1 CONTENT:**

Introduce students to the 4 sections of the IELTS Exam. This will include:

READING

* Introduction to the content and format of the test
* Strategies for dealing with each question type
* Detecting and avoiding tricks and traps
* Working with academic vocabulary: collocations, paraphrase, noun phrases

LISTENING

* Introduction to the content and format of each section
* Strategies for dealing with each type of question
* Anticipation of answers
* Error analysis
* Features of the phonology of English: word and sentence stress, linking sounds

WRITING (task 2)

* Introduction to Ielts essay writing
* Structure of Essays – all essay types:
* Argumentative essay, discussion essay, problem solution essay
* Analysis of questions
* Pre-writing
* Writing introductions and conclusions
* Body Paragraphs – cohesion and coherence
* Providing support and giving examples
* Sentence structure
* Vocabulary – Specific language features for different functions and essay styles

SPEAKING

* Introduction to the content and format of each section
* Useful language to use in each section
* Strategies for improving performance
* Video analysis of other students’ performances
* Verbal practice and analysis

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Academic vocabulary is considered the key to being successful in the Ielts and it will be emphasized throughout the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES and OUTCOMES

1. Students will become familiar with all parts of the Ielts exam
2. Students will learn strategies and develop skills for dealing with each part of the exam
3. Students will increase their knowledge and ability to deal with academic vocabulary in context

**Evaluation Criteria for IELTS 1:**

**Classwork:**

* + - 1 - Project – 3 groups
    - Listening Project
    - Weekly Reading Journal
    - Weekly Vocab / Grammar Test (Monday)
    - Written Assignments
    - Video assignments

**Participation:**

* + - Homework
    - In class work, effort and contribution to class
    - Attendance

**Midterm**

**Final**

The final Exam will be a mock IELTS test. Students will progress to IELTS 2 based on the results of the mid-term and final exams. Class-work will also be a very important factor in progressing to IELTS 2. Any student with 5.0 or above and acceptable class-work may progress to IELTS 2.

**IELTS 2**

OBJECTIVE

* Apply the skills learned in Ielts 1 to exam situations
* To improve performance on all sections of the exam
* To master time management
* To deal more effectively with paraphrase
* To analyze one’s own strengths and weaknesses
* To create and implement a self-study plan based on the above
* To understand and exploit Ielts evaluation criteria

CONTENT:

READING

* Timed test practice: Individual sections and full tests
* Strategies for dealing with multiple question types
* Strategies for avoiding difficult questions
* Strategies for dealing with the test holistically

LISTENING

* Practice in exam simulations
* Strategies to avoid tricks and improve results
* Self analysis
* Analysis of features of spoken English (sentence and word stress, linking sounds, the schwa etc.)

WRITING (task 1 and 2)

* Timed practice (task 1 and 2 individually and together)
* Analysis of results using band score descriptors
* Strategies for improving performance
* Review of grammatical and lexical issues

Speaking

* Practice of all sections
* Advanced analysis and strategies for improvement of performance

EVALUATION

Class work,

Participation

Mid Term

Final

Both the mid-term and final exams will be Ielts level mock exams. See the following to understand the evaluation results and recommendations:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overall band score |  |
| 6.5 | Students are strongly recommended to take the real IELTS as soon as possible |
| 6.0 | Students may be recommended to take the real IELTS as soon as possible. However, in some cases, further study may be recommended… (usually self study) |
| 5.5 and below | Students will be recommended to study one more course here at ITEC or at another centre before attempting the real Ielts |