



ACADEMIC ENGLISH SKILLS

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Course Objectives

The course aims to widen knowledge of the main aspects of written texts providing the skills necessary for producing texts in line with the stylistic models of papers, essays and dissertations. The course will also focus on the development of note-taking skills preliminary to writing activities.

Another important part of the course will be dedicated to developing the students speaking skills to enable them to take part in a meeting, negotiate and give presentations.

Course Syllabus

The course will aim to deepen the understanding of the following topics:

- title and structure of an argumentative text;
- organizing paragraphs;
- writing effective introductions and conclusions
- paraphrasing;
- definitions, tentative language, generalizations, comparisons;
- cohesive elements;
- verbs for referencing;
- proofreading.
- the language of professional presentations and meetings

Learning objectives

At the end of the course the students will be able to:

- structure coherent and effective argumentative texts;
- choose the morphological and syntactic features best suited to academic writing
- give an oral presentation using the linguistic devices of the language of professional presentations participate in a meeting giving opinions and putting forward ideas

Assessment plan

The exam is divided into two parts and the students must pass both of them to complete the exam:

1. written test:
 - Writing an argumentative text (about 300 words) where the students will be asked to express their opinion about a topic;
 - Exercises to test some particular stylistic devices (paraphrasing, emphatic structures, tentative language etc.)
2. Oral test:
 - A professional presentation

Recommended Text

- Handouts available on Blackboard.

Extra study material:

T. LYNCH, K. ANDERSON, *Grammar for Academic Writing*, English Language Teaching Centre, 2013.

Available as PDF from:

https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/grammar_for_academic_writing_ism.pdf

J. MORLEY, *Academic Phrasebank*, The University of Manchester, 2014.

Available online at:

<http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/>