

BACKGROUND

Students are expected to have acquired a reasonable degree of language proficiency in English by the time they come to class XII, and the course will aim, essentially, at promoting the higher-order language skills.

For a large number of students, the senior secondary stage will be a preparation for the university, where a fairly high degree of proficiency in English may be required. But for another large group, the senior secondary stage may be a preparation for entry into the world of work. The Core Courses should cater to both groups by promoting the language skills required for academic study as well as the language skills required for the workplace.

OBJECTIVE

The general objective at this stage are :

- to listen to and comprehend live as well as recorded oral presentations on a variety of topics.
- to develop greater confidence and proficiency in the use of language skills necessary for social and academic purposes.
- to participate in group discussion/interviews, making short oral presentation of given topics.
- to perceive the overall meaning and organization of the text (i.e., the relationships of the different "chunks" in the text to the each other).
- to identify the central/main point and supporting details etc.
- to build communicative competence in various registers of English.
- to promote advance language skills with an aim to develop the skills of reasoning, drawing inferences etc. through meaningful activities.
- to develop ability and knowledge required in order to engage in independent reflection and enquiry.
- to develop the capacity to appreciate literary use of English and also use English creatively and imaginatively.

At the end of this stage learners will be able to do the following :

- read and comprehend extended texts (prescribed and non-prescribed) in the following genres : fiction, science fiction, drama, poetry, biography, autobiography, travel and sports literature, etc.
- text-based writing (i.e., writing in response to questions or tasks based on prescribed or unseen texts)
- understand and respond to lectures, speeches, etc.
- write expository/argumentative essays of 250-500 words, explaining or developing a topic, arguing a case, etc.

- write formal/informal letters and applications for different purposes.
- write items related to the workplace (minutes, memoranda, notices, summaries, reports; filling up of forms, preparing CVs, e-mail messages etc.)
- taking/making notes from reference materials, recorded talks etc.

LANGUAGE ITEMS

The Core Course should draw upon the language items suggested for classes IX-X and develop deeper into their usage and functions. Particular attention may, however, be given to the following areas of grammar:

- The uses of different tense forms for different kinds of narration (e.g. media, commentaries, reports, programmer, etc)
- The use of passive forms in scientific and innovative writings.
- Converting one kind of sentence/clause into a different kind of structure of well as other items to exemplify stylistic variations in different discourses
- Modal auxiliaries – used based on semantic considerations.

METHODS AND TECHNIQUES

The techniques used for teaching should promote habits of self-learning and reduce dependence on the teacher. In general, we recommend a multi-skill, learner-centred, activity based approach, of which there can be many variations. The core classroom activity is likely to be that of silent reading of prescribed/selected texts for comprehension, which can lead to other forms of language learning activities such as role play, dramatization, group discussion, writing, etc. although many such activities could be carried out without the preliminary use of textual material. It is important that students be trained to read independently and intelligently, interacting actively with texts, with the use of reference materials (dictionaries, thesauruses, etc.) where necessary. Some pre-reading activity will generally be required, and the course books should suggest suitable activities, leaving teachers free to devise other activities when desired. So also, the reading of texts should be followed by post reading activities. It is important to remember that every text can generate different readings. Students should be encouraged to interpret texts in different ways.

Group and pair activities can be resorted to when desired, but many useful language activities can be carried out individually.

In general, teachers should encourage students to interact actively with texts and with each other. Oral activity (group discussion, etc.) should be encouraged.

Flamingo Textbook

1. The Last Lesson (Aplhonse Daudet)
2. Lost Spring (Anees Jung)
3. Deep Water (William Douglas)
4. The Rattrap (Selma Lagerlof)
5. Indigo (Louis Fischer)
6. Poets and Pancakes (Asokamitran)
7. The Interview
Part I (Christopher Silvester)
Part II (An Interview with Umberto Eco)
8. Going Places (A.R. Barton)

Poetry

1. My Mother At Sixty-Six (Kamala Das)
2. Keeping Quiet (Pablo Neruda)
3. A Thing of Beauty (John Keats)
4. A Roadside Stand (Robert Frost)
5. Aunt Jennifer's Tigers (Adrienne Rich)

Vistas (Supplementary Reader)

1. The Third Level (Jack Finney)
2. The Tiger King (Kalki)
3. Journey to the end of the Earth (Tishani Doshi)
4. The Enemy (Pearl S. Buck)
5. On the Face of It (Susan Hill)
6. Memories of Childhood
 - The cutting of My Long Hair (Zitkala-Sa)
 - We Too are Human Beings (Bama)