SEVERN BUSINESS COLLEGE

COURSE HANDBOOK

General English

Reading · Writing · Speaking · Listening

DURATION	ASSESSMENT	CEFR RANGE
6 or 11 months	PTE Academic	B1 to C1

SECTION 01

Course Overview

Developing confident, capable users of English

The General English programme, also known as English as a Foreign Language (EFL), is designed to advance learners' English across the four fundamental skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.

The curriculum is built around practical exercises such as role-play and teamwork, so that students rehearse their English in the situations they are likely to meet in everyday life. The programme develops the language skills that prepare learners for future academic and career opportunities in English-speaking environments.

The Course at a Glance

6 or 11	8 Strands	B1–C1	PTE
MONTHS	48 MODULES	CEFR RANGE	ACADEMIC

Key Benefits

Balanced skills development

Learners become more proficient in all four areas of English: speaking, writing, listening and reading.

Regular practice

Learners are given many opportunities to practise their English in realistic, interactive settings.

Teacher and peer feedback

Both teachers and fellow students provide feedback, supporting steady and visible progress.

A global learning community

Learners gain knowledge about different cultures and meet new people from around the world.

SECTION 02

Course Structure

The programme is organised into eight strands. Each strand builds progressively through five focused modules and concludes with a culminating project.

Core Language Skills

Reading Skills

1	Reading Comprehension
2	Critical Reading
3	Genre Exploration
4	Literary Analysis
5	Informational Texts
6	**Culminating Project**

Writing Skills

1	Basics of Writing
2	Narrative Writing
3	Descriptive Writing
4	Persuasive Writing
5	Advanced Writing Techniques
6	**Culminating Project**

Listening Skills

1	Active Listening Techniques
2	Contextual Listening
3	Real-world Listening
4	Listening Comprehension
5	Podcast Analysis
6	**Culminating Project**

Speaking Skills

1	Pronunciation and Intonation
2	Conversational Proficiency
3	Public Speaking Basics
4	Structured Presentations
5	Handling Q&A Sessions
6	**Culminating Project**

Every strand ends with a Culminating Project

Each of the eight strands concludes with a culminating project, giving learners a structured opportunity to draw together what they have learned and demonstrate it in practice.

Supporting Strands

Vocabulary

1	Building a Core Vocabulary
2	Contextual Usage
3	Specialised Vocabulary
4	Expanding Vocabulary
5	Vocabulary in Media
6	**Culminating Project**

Grammar

1	Basic Grammar Rules
2	Verb Tenses
3	Sentence Structure
4	Advanced Grammar Concepts
5	Common Grammar Mistakes
6	**Culminating Project**

Cultural Integration

1	Understanding Cultural Nuances
2	Cultural Appreciation
3	Communication Across Cultures
4	Diversity in Language
5	Cultural Competence
6	**Culminating Project**

Presentation Skills

1	Crafting Effective Presentations
2	Delivery Techniques
3	Handling Nervousness
4	Q&A Session Strategies
5	Professional Presentation Styles
6	**Culminating Project**

SECTION 03

Assessment

FINAL ASSESSMENT

PTE Academic Test

Results are interpreted against the CEFR levels and IELTS equivalents set out in Section 04.

SECTION 04

CEFR Levels and Abilities

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) describes what learners can do at each stage of their progress. The bands below show the PTE Academic and IELTS score ranges associated with each level.

Learner Progression

B1 Intermediate › **B2** Upper Intermediate › **C1** Advanced

Level Descriptors and Score Bands

CEFR LEVEL	PTE ACADEMIC	IELTS	WHAT LEARNERS CAN DO
B1	43–58	4–5	▪ Understands the main points of clear, standard input on familiar matters met at work, school or leisure. ▪ Handles most situations likely to arise when travelling where the language is spoken. ▪ Produces simple, connected text on familiar topics or subjects of personal interest.
B2	59–75	5.5–6.5	▪ Produces clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explains viewpoints on topical issues. ▪ Understands the main ideas of complex text, whether concrete or abstract. ▪ Interacts with fluency and spontaneity, enabling regular communication with native speakers.
C1	76–84	7–8	▪ Produces clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, with controlled use of organisational patterns and cohesive devices. ▪ Expresses ideas fluently and spontaneously, with minimal effort in searching for expressions. ▪ Uses language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes.