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Introduction

Welcome to the Level-A English course custom-made for students in the first year of the Bachelor's Degree in Political Science.

This course has a B1–B2 CEFR level (B1 for writing and speaking skills, B2 for reading and listening comprehension).

It is essentially an English for Specific Purposes (ESP) course consisting of:

- articles (analysed for their linguistic features and content),
- debates and presentations,
- exam-format writing exercises (summaries, definitions, descriptions, presenting arguments, etc.) of the IELTS type,
- a grammar (Self-study Grammar with exercises and answers) designed for self-learning.

Some of the material has been adapted from the book *Political Science*, SparkNotes 101, Spark Publishing.

Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be expected to perform at a B2 level for listening and reading skills, and at a B1 level for speaking and writing skills.

These levels are described in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages as follows:

	B2
Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow lines of arguments provided the topic is reasonably familiar.• I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes.• I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints.• I can understand contemporary literary prose.
	B1
Spoken production	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences, and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions.• I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.• I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I can write simple connected texts on topics which are familiar or of personal interest.• I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions

Organisation

Ninety-minute weekly sessions from September to May.

The dual purpose of this English course is (a) to consolidate and extend the student's general language understanding and use and (b) to introduce the specific features of the language related to politics (vocabulary and language structures). This is done in the four language skills, i.e. reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

Note that regular attendance and active participation are essential and taken into account in the final grade. Together with the compulsory assignments described below, class participation makes up the class work mark, which accounts for 20% of the English mark.

Compulsory assignments

The class work mark actually corresponds to *continuous assessment of progress* through class participation and various mandatory oral presentations and papers designed to help students develop their language abilities individually by doing exam-format tasks. In practice, all students will be asked to:

- take 4 grammar tests,
- write 2 homework essays,
- do 1 oral presentation (in small groups)

These will be marked and students will receive individual feedback. They will be assessed according to a number of criteria including their content and internal cohesion, the accuracy of grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation, and the range of vocabulary and structure.

Examination

The final exam is held in June. It is a written exam composed of several papers (vocabulary, grammar, listening and reading comprehension + writing exercises) and oral exam (texts from the course book and from the readings file).

As far as the written part is concerned, a similar self-assessment mock exam will be held in February.

Grading

<p>During the year:</p> <p>class attendance, participation, preparation</p> <p>homework essays (2)</p> <p>oral presentation (1)</p> <p>grammar tests (4)</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>Written exam:</p> <p>reading</p> <p>listening</p> <p>writing</p> <p>grammar exercises</p> <p>vocabulary exercises</p> <p>Oral exam</p>	<p>80%</p>

Self-learning

Given the significant differences in proficiency between students, the limited in-class teaching, and the number of students in each group, supervised self-learning and remedial work should be given due attention by the students.

If necessary, students can also purchase the Grammaire de base de l'anglais (with exercises and key) ISLV, written in French. It is available in the Pointde Vue copy shop.

Students can also train online.

To train online: <http://www.islv.ulg.ac.be>; Click on Les Langues, Anglais and then Interface étudiants and Exercices automatisés de grammaire in order to have access to automated exercises.

The students should never hesitate to ask their lecturer, in person or via e-mail, for additional explanations at any time if they feel they need some background filled in. All English teachers will be happy to answer any queries their students have on the English course.

The ISLV teaching team

Daphné BUI – daphne.bui@ulg.ac.be

Amaël VERBEURE – amael.verbeure@ulg.ac.be

Assignment calendar:

Note that on top of the following compulsory assignments, students will be expected to do preparation work for upcoming classes every week as instructed by their teacher.

- Quadrimester 1: Homework Essay 1 – Grammar Tests 1 and 2
- Quadrimester 2: Homework Essay 2 – Grammar Tests 3 and 4 – Oral Presentation (February: Mock Exam)

