

Open University of Mauritius
Foundation Course
Foundation Level English-OUfc003

1. Introduction

In line with its philosophy to democratise access to university education, the Open University of Mauritius offers Foundation Courses. These courses aim at better preparing learners for higher education while allowing them to meet the minimum requirements to undertake undergraduate studies. They have been carefully developed by a team of experts to ensure smooth transition to university. They also motivate learners and give them a greater chance of succeeding. They play a pivotal role in helping learners to revisit lost skills, while giving them the necessary confidence and preparatory experience they need for success at university. However, they are not intended to replace secondary school courses. On successfully completing four foundation courses (8 modules) including English through Open Distance Learning (ODL), they can join degree programmes.

The ODL mode of delivery enables convenient self-study within a flexible framework. This mode of delivery allows learners to learn at their own pace, in their own place and time without disrupting their social, professional and domestic commitments hence, allowing them to earn while learning.

2. Aim

This course is designed for learners who have up to Form V qualifications and who wish to develop the requisite linguistic foundation to undertake an undergraduate degree through English medium instruction.

Consisting of two modules this course focuses on developing integrated English language competencies in the 4 skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as general critical thinking.

Module 1 is pitched at Intermediate Level competencies whilst Module 2 targets Advanced competencies. Each module is made up of 10 self-contained units. Each thematically coherent unit moves to higher skills in a smoothly progressive manner.

3. Course requirements

- SC/GCE O-level with 3 credits + 1 A-level
(Applicants should be less than 25 years of age)
- Mature candidates will be considered on their own merit.

4. Course Duration

Minimum	Maximum
1 year	2 years

5. Minimum credits required for the awards

8 credits

Each credit in the University's system is equivalent to a minimum of 20 hours of study including all learning activities (i.e. reading and comprehending the print material, listening to audio, watching video, attending tutorials/counseling sessions, writing assignment responses and preparation for the examinations). Thus, a 3-credit course involves a minimum of 60 hours of study.

6. Assessment

- Assignments 30%
- Examinations 70%
- Overall pass 40%

Assessments will be based on written examination of 2-hour duration and continuous assessment carrying a maximum of 30% of total marks. Continuous assessment will be based on assignment(s). For a learner to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessment and written examination components would be

required without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination. Learners may re-sit up to a maximum of two failed modules for the semester of the programme.

7. Course structure

YEAR 1 (TOTAL CREDITS = 16)

MODULE CODE	SEMESTER	MODULE	Number of Credits
OUfc003111	One	Intermediate Level-English	4
OUfc003121	Two	Advanced Level-English	4

8. Module Outline

OUfc003111- Intermediate Level-English

Aim

This module is designed to

- Develop comprehension: the ability to understand and respond accurately and appropriately to what is read and listened
- Develop communicative competence: the ability to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in speech and writing
- Develop appreciation: the ability to enjoy and appreciate reading/listening texts in the English Language.

Contents

The module will consist of a printed booklet with 10 units and an audio CD with excerpts thematically related to the reading text in each unit.

Each unit will integrate the following components into a thematically interrelated whole:

- Reading passage with comprehension questions
- Grammar and vocabulary elements derived from the passage
- Directed and continuous writing (about 500 words)
- Listening-based exercises such as note taking, information search, summary
- Oral activities such as – Opinion Expression, Description, Summary

Unit Themes

Unit 1: Reading Habit

Unit 2: Women on the move

Unit 3: Narrative prose

Unit 4: Music

Unit 5: Understanding cultures

Unit 6: Relaxation

Unit 7: Etiquette

Unit 8: Child care

Unit 9: Brain Drain

Unit 10: Environment

9. Supporting Materials

Self-learning booklet

Audio CD

References

Exploring Academic English: A Workbook for Student Essay Writing by Thurston J; Candlin J N

Focus on Reading by Hood S; Solomon N

Strategies and Structures: a basic writing guide by Spangler, M. S.; Werner, R.

Mastering Communication by Stanton Nicky

Mastering English Language by Burton S H and Humphries J

Aspects of Composition by Inman B A and Gardner R

Wordbuilder by Wellman Guy

A Practical English grammar revised and updated by Thomson A and Martinet A

10. Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this module, learners should be able to

- select, retrieve, analyse, evaluate and combine information from written and audio texts.
- appreciate the ways writers/speakers make use of language.
- express personal experience, views and feelings.
- use language to inform and explain.
- show an awareness of how spoken and written communication varies according to situation, purpose and audience.

- employ different forms of writing to suit a range of purposes.
- plan, organise and paragraph, using appropriate punctuation.
- choose a vocabulary which is suited to its purpose and audience, and use correct grammar and punctuation.
- write in Standard English.
- spell accurately the words within the working vocabulary.

OUfc003121 – Advanced Level-English

Aim

This module is designed to

- Promote the skills of rational thought, analysis, evaluation, interpretation and argumentation
- Promote maturity of thought and clarity of expression in speech and writing.
- Create awareness of current issues of global interest
- Develop textual analysis skills

Contents

The module will consist of a printed booklet with 10 units and an audio CD with excerpts thematically related to the reading text in each unit.

Each unit will integrate the following components into a thematically interrelated whole:

- Reading passage (prose and data) with comprehension, explanation and analytical questions
- Grammar and vocabulary elements derived from the passage
- Directed and continuous writing (500 – 800 words)
- Listening-based exercises such as note taking, explanation, argumentation, evaluation
- Oral activities such as – Opinion Expression, Argumentation, Presentation

Unit Themes

Unit 1: Origin of Words

Unit 2: Sports

Unit 3: Refugees

Unit 4: Globalisation

Unit 5: Sustainable Development

Unit 6: Science

Unit 7: Nature

Unit 8: Communication

Unit 9: Business Ethics

Unit 10: Image Building

11. Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this module, learners should be able to:

- identify, select, interpret and synthesize through reasoned consideration reading/listening material for written tasks
- analyse the impact of language
- evaluate material with discernment to reach conclusions backed by sound argument and/or evidence
- communicate information, ideas, opinions in a clear, concise, logical and appropriate manner
- make coherent oral presentations

12. Supporting Materials

Manual	Open University of Mauritius
Audio CD	
References	<i>Exploring Academic English: A Workbook for Student Essay Writing</i> by Thurstun J; Candlin J N <i>Focus on Reading</i> by Hood S; Solomon N <i>Strategies and Structures: a basic writing guide</i> by Spangler, M. S.; Werner, R. <i>Mastering Communication</i> by Stanton Nicky <i>Mastering English Language</i> by Burton S H and Humphries J <i>Aspects of Composition</i> by Inman B A and Gardner R <i>Wordbuilder</i> by Wellman Guy <i>A Practical English grammar revised and updated</i> by Thomson A and Martinet A