

## OPTIONS 2005

### How the Options system works

Each option runs for the length of a **course block**, usually 4 weeks (2 weeks in the summer).

You will cover a variety of topics within your option. You may not cover all of them: the topics available will depend on preference, language level, place availability and course dates.

If you are staying for several months, you will have a chance to choose a new option every month. If you like, you can stay in the option you selected for a maximum of 3 months (except English for Study, which you may choose to do for longer).

If you are doing an Intensive General Combination course, you will have Individual Tuition in the afternoon.

### Language Reinforcement Skills

#### Levels 2-8

#### Topics

##### **Grammar and Speaking**

Depending on class needs, you may study areas of grammar which are new to you or develop grammar areas you have already studied. This topic will give you intensive practice to help you become more accurate when you are speaking.

##### **Vocabulary Expansion**

This will help you to expand your vocabulary and also give you practice in actively using vocabulary when you speak. This topic may also involve listening, reading or working with reference books like dictionaries.

##### **Pronunciation and Listening**

This topic will help you to understand other people better and help you to improve your own pronunciation. You will do listening activities and work on different pronunciation features such as sounds, word stress, sentence stress and intonation. These activities are designed to help both your listening skills and your pronunciation.

##### **English in Social Situations**

In this topic, you will learn and practise the language of everyday social situations that you may find yourself in during your stay in London. Examples of this are: asking for information, making arrangements, shopping, booking a table and visiting a restaurant. You may also discuss social customs in Britain and in other countries. In particular, you will learn about appropriate ways of saying things.

## English for Culture and Communication

Levels 3-8

### Topics

#### **Media and News & Views**

This is for students who are interested in discussing current affairs (or in other words, social or political issues). This topic is mainly for discussion practice and improving spoken fluency. You will be expected to give short presentations on newspaper or magazine articles of your own choice. You may also take part in other some media-related activities such as reading, listening and vocabulary work. Examples of this are studying the language of newspaper headlines and talking about different kinds of newspapers.

#### **British Life**

This is for students who are interested in learning about or discussing different aspects of life in Britain. This topic will include reading or listening to different texts about Britain, which will be used as a basis for vocabulary work and discussion. You will learn about, and will be invited to share your views on, aspects of British Life and culture.

#### **Film, Video & Drama**

This is for students who are interested in practising listening and speaking. You will watch extracts from films or television programmes, which will be used as a basis for speaking, vocabulary and grammar work. You may also read and/or act out short plays or scenes from plays.

#### **Literature and the Arts**

In this topic, you will read different types of literary text, such as short stories, simplified books, poems and then talk about what you have read. Some of the reading will be done in class but you may also be expected to do some reading for homework. You may watch video extracts related to the texts, as a basis for further speaking activities. Depending on the needs and interests of participants, you may also do other activities connected with the Arts, such as talking about music and art. *Please note that this topic is part of a General English course and is not designed to be a serious, university-style, academic English Literature course.*

## English for Work

Levels 4-8

### Topics

#### **Business/IT**

This topic concentrates mainly on speaking, listening and vocabulary in a business context. Activities may include: meetings, negotiations and presentations, as well as business-related topics such as company structure, describing trends, human resources, marketing and finance. It may also include vocabulary and discussion related to information technology. *Students intending to do an English for International Business or a Young Business English course at our Holland Park executive centre should talk to the Courses Manager before making a final decision about this topic.*

#### **Practical Writing**

This topic is designed to help you to develop your practical writing skills in a range of work-related contexts. It will include work on writing different texts, such as letters, emails and reports. It will also include speaking, listening, reading and/or vocabulary work. Some of the writing may be done in class (individually, in pairs or groups) and some of it may be done as homework.

#### **Social & Intercultural English**

In this topic you will learn and practise the language used in common social situations, such as telephoning, meeting people, introductions and small talk, or receiving visitors. The topic will involve discussion of inter-cultural aspects of communication when you meet people of other nationalities.

#### **English for Travel & Tourism**

This topic is aimed at students who are interested in English for professional communication within the hotel and tourism industries, such as airlines, hotels, tourist information centres, travel agencies. It will include a range of activities such as vocabulary expansion, listening, reading and speaking practice, e.g. role plays, work on pronunciation, or working with tourism-related websites.

## English for Study

### Levels 4-8

This option will cover the type of work formerly included on our ISSUE course. A typical afternoon's study will include a combination of the *first three* topics listed below\*.

### Topics

#### **Study Skills**

In this topic students will focus on developing different skills needed for successful study or future higher education. This may include work on how best to learn, planning and organizing your learning, and research skills.

#### **English for Academic Purposes**

This topic focuses on developing academic skills: listening skills, such as extended listening and note-taking; reading skills such as finding information quickly and summarizing; writing skills such as brainstorming, planning and linking ideas; speaking skills such as presenting ideas and leading discussions or seminars.

#### **IELTS**

In this topic you will focus on the different question types in the IELTS exam and develop the skills and techniques needed to take each part of the exam successfully. It will also include vocabulary and grammar work useful for the exam.

#### **Exam Skills\***

At certain times of the year we will run a separate topic for students who want to prepare for a specific examination. In this topic you will learn the skills, techniques and strategies which will help you to take examinations more successfully. You will also develop your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in an exam context as well as grammar and vocabulary which is useful for examinations. This topic is particularly helpful if you intend to take **FCE** or **CAE** later.

At particular times of year, depending on demand, you may choose to do **PET Examination Preparation**.