

Sharad Pawar International School Pune

Charholi Bk. via Lohegaon, District Pune- 412 105

Maharashtra State, India



English as Second Language

Introduction

◆ What is the importance of English?

- *English is the preferred medium of communication across the globe 80% of the world's available information is in English, on the internet and in printed matter. It is the international language of business and commerce. English proficiency is required by universities in English speaking countries for admission.*

◆ What is the difference between English as a Second language and English as a First language?

- *English as a First language is the test set by examination bodies for students aged around 16 (year/grade 10). It is intended for those who have been educated all their lives in English medium schools and who speak English regularly at home. A pass in this examination indicates native speaker level competence.*
- *English as a Second language is the test set by examination bodies for students aged around 16 (year / grade 10). It is intended for those who have been educated in their mother tongue (not English) and who do not normally speak English at home.*

Pre-Admission procedures

◆ What is the purpose of the pre-admission test?

- *The pre-admission test is designed to ascertain the learning needs of the students. It measures what they can do and indicates what they cannot do with the English language. On the basis of these results, programmes of instruction are designed at SPIS to meet the identified needs. Where a pre-admission test is not possible, a diagnostic test is taken by the student soon after arriving at SPIS.*

◆ When and where is the test held?

- *The test is administered twice yearly in the student's country of origin in time for January and August admissions.*

ESL syllabus at SPIS

◆ How often are ESL classes?

- *Students at SPIS are withdrawn from English as First language classes and taught English as a Second language by teachers trained for the task. They may be in classes which include children of more than one nationality but whose language needs are broadly similar. Depending on age at admission, these can take place between four and six times per week.*

◆ Are ESL classes also conducted outside normal school hours?

- *Additional classes after school hours are compulsory for all ESL students. These will run for 4 evening per week, and each will be of one hour's duration. These classes will usually be less formal than the regular classroom work and include poetry reading, drama, singing English songs and holding discussions on topics of interest and concern to the students. ESL students will have to accept that attending such classes will sometimes mean that they have to forgo sports and other club activities to give the learning of English the priority it deserves.*

◆ Which text books and listening and speaking resources are used?

- *We currently use a series of books and Cd's imported from the UK copies of the Cd's and books are given to the ESL students free of charge. These Cd's provide intensive listening exercises for the students to get used to listening to and interacting with native speakers of English. The books provide contemporary examples of English as it is used by native speakers in speech and in writing.*

◆ How is the ESL programme designed?

The Foundation Programme

All students from Grade 7 upwards are taken through the Foundation Programme, but at a speed that suits their needs. Some students may complete this foundation programme in one or two months, others may take considerably longer. This compulsory foundation programme is designed to cover any gaps in the student's previous learning. Even the most able students from an ESL background benefit from a quick revision of basic grammar, vocabulary and idiom, all of which feature on this course.

The Intermediate and Advanced programmes

Students are promoted to these programmes on successful completion of the Foundation programme.

◆ What kind of English qualifications will the students earn at SPIS?

- *Starters, Movers, Flyers KET PET IGCSE (depending on age at entry and progress made by student)*

These examinations are conducted by Cambridge University, UK and can be taken 'on demand' at any age when we deem that the student is adequately prepared. Normally, Starters, Movers and Flyers tests are taken between the ages of 7 and 12. The other tests are aimed at young students aged 13 - 17.

Using English for everyday purposes

◆ Does the school encourage ESL students to speak English throughout the day, even when talking to other students from their own countries?

- *Yes*

◆ What other opportunities does the school provide for ESL students to improve their English?

- *An **advanced** ESL programme and, in exceptional cases, possible elevation to English as First language classes are available to those students who pass the End of Intermediate Programme test.*
- *Annual tour to either UK, USA, New Zealand, Canada or Australia where the ESL students will attend English language schools and live with English-speaking families for 2-3 weeks. This tour is optional and will be charged for at a cost.*