

Designing & developing a writing course for low-level believers and achievers!

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The Principles of Syllabus Design

A syllabus needs to:

- be *developmental*, demonstrating clear **progression** toward the learning outcome/s.
- provide opportunity for students to **review** and **consolidate** through *recycling*
- provide learning that is *transferable* across a variety of contexts and disciplines

(Alexander, Argent & Spencer, 2008)

The Student Cohort

This syllabus has been designed for students who are on a preparatory Academic English course:

- *Pre-Foundation*
 - *Undergraduates*
 - *Postgraduates*
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- *IELTS 4.0*

The Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe a situation
2. Acknowledge the associated problems
3. Present solutions
4. Critically evaluate the proposed solutions and
5. Identify an appropriate response

WHY USE RHETORICAL FUNCTIONS?

Rhetorical Functions:

- Combine communicative purpose with meaning-based grammar and vocabulary
- Focus the efforts of learning & teaching on developing language within context
- Use language that can be transferred across the disciplines
- Provide recycling & an accelerated development of language through the writing of simple texts
- Allow for progression from the more simple to the more complex functions

(Alexander, Argent & Spencer, 2008)

Syllabus IELTS 4.0

- Wk1 Establish topic /text / plan a **cause and effect essay** / write an Introduction and consider thesis statement
- Wk 2 Review thesis statement / Formulate topic sentences
- Wk3 Write a cause and effect paragraph/s
- Language to communicate cause & effect + transitional signals / Incorporating sources
- Wk 4 Write a conclusion / Formality in verbs

Set formative assignment: A cause & effect essay

Wk5 Establish topic /text / plan a **compare & contrast** essay / write an Introduction and thesis statement

Wk6 Topic sentences / Write a compare and contrast paragraph/s / Paraphrasing & incorporating sources

Wk7 Writing a conclusion / using caution

Set summative assignment: A compare & contrast essay

Wk8 Establish topic /text / identify the **situation, problem & solution** / acknowledge the different grammatical structures for each section including cause & effect

Wk9 Write an evaluation / language to compare & contrast

Wk10 Final exam: An SPSE essay

When writing the syllabus...

Consider the following:

“What does a student need from an EAP course in order to study academic subjects through the medium of English?”

(Alexander, Argent & Spencer, 2008)