

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ELECTIVE PROGRAMME

H2 ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES

English Language Studies is an H2 Humanities subject which will be offered from 2009. ELS is not to be offered in lieu of General Paper. It can be offered together with Knowledge & Inquiry and Literature. It can also be offered as a contrasting subject for Science students.

The aims and assessment objectives of ELS centre on the following: students are to

- **Understand and apply** concepts and methods in the analysis of the English language.
- **Understand and critically examine** issues concerning the nature of, and variations in, the English language.
- **Develop** skills in the use and interpretation of the English language.

It has to be stressed that the primary concern of ELS is not the English language as an abstract or ideal object, but the *actual use and interpretation* of English in a range of very concrete socio-cultural contexts. These might include blogs, various kinds of advertisements and conversations in Singlish.

Assessment consists of two 3-hour written papers.

Paper 1: Analysing Language Use

Each of the two sections contains one compulsory task. Tasks are based on material included in the question paper. This material will be drawn from areas such as transcripts of conversations and speeches, journalism, advertisements, correspondence in various media (letters, e-mails, text messages etc), websites and films.

Section A: Analysis

Referring to two linked texts, candidates are required to

- analyse their linguistic features (e.g. vocabulary choices, sentence structure)
- consider relevant contextual factors (e.g. the purpose or function of each text)

Section B: Adaptive writing and commentary

Candidates are required to

- adapt given material for another written medium
- explain and evaluate their adaptation

Paper 2: Investigating Language Use in Society

Each of the two sections has two tasks from which the candidate will choose one. As in Paper 1, the tasks are based on material included in the question paper.

Section A: Language Variation and Change

Referring to the given material, candidates are required to

- analyse its linguistic features
- respond to a more general question based on issues relevant to the material, such as:
 - concepts in language variation and change
 - details of, and reasons for, particular instances of language variation and change
 - attitudes to different varieties of English

Section B: Language, culture and identity

Referring to the given material, candidates are required to

- analyse its linguistic features
- respond to a more general question based on issues relevant to the material, such as:
 - how socio-cultural factors affect language use
 - how language use represents socio-cultural characteristics and attitudes
 - how and why some social groups use language to differentiate themselves from others