**IM Writing, Reading, Use of English Course outline 2024-2025**

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**Level C1+**

The written lettorato exam will consist of**:**

**Writing** 1 h 30 min (choice of either narrative or argumentative essay). See sample exam

**Reading Comprehension** 45 mins (five open ended questions based on a one page text). See sample exam**.**

**Use of English** 45 mins. Sentence transformation, Word formation and cloze test based on topics covered in the 20 chapters of the course textbook. See sample exam.

Course objectives -- Students should be able to:

-- construct a short essay (minimum 400 words, time 1h 30min) based on guiding questions.

--write well-structured texts which show a high degree of grammatical correctness and variety in vocabulary and style according to the topic.

--write clear, detailed, well-developed descriptions and imaginative texts in an assured, personal, natural style appropriate to the reader in mind.

--write papers on complex topics, developing an argument systematically by highlighting the main issues and supporting points with relevant examples and details and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

--write well-structured answers which show a high degree of Reading Comprehension of sophisticated texts.

--synthesise information and express it in their own words.

Evaluation: Continuous assessment, lettorato exam.

The I semester will focus on the Narrative Essay and the II semester will focus on the Argumentative essay.

All reading and writing activities and evaluation will place emphasis on vocabulary, word formation, grammar and sentence structure (Use of English).

Please see sample exam.

The basic structure of the narrative essay:

**The narrative essay**

* is told from a particular point of view, and is usually in the first person
* makes and supports a theme or a point
* contains precise detail
* uses vivid verbs and modifiers
* follows the conventions of a story with conflict, description, etc
* may use dialogue
* shows meaning for readers through the personal experience of the writers

Reading models for the narrative essay:

Thinking as a Hobby, William Golding.

A Hanging, George Orwell.

Seeing England for the First Time, Jamaca Kincaid.

A tatoo for the Living, Alana Dakin. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/13/style/modern-love-tattoo-boyfriend-disappearance.html>

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “The Danger of a Single Story”.

The basic structure of the short argumentative essay:

The **introduction** should:

* Contain general comment on the topic and your particular angle. State which aspects of the topic will be dealt with and why
* Contain a direct or implicit thesis statement or question. A reader should, right from the start,
* be able to get the drift of the author’s position or viewpoint on the topic
* Include relevant definitions that will be used in the rest of the essay
* Direct the reader, give the reader a clear idea of what is to follow
* Not be too long, 15-20% the length of the total essay
* May be only one paragraph

The **body** should:

* develop the points raised in the introduction with examples and illustration
* be divided into paragraphs. The role of the paragraph is to raise an issue, develop an idea or make a transition. It normally deals with one topic. Usually, the first sentence of each paragraph is the topic sentence. It introduces the main theme or content for that paragraph.

The **conclusion** should:

* summarise main ideas
* provide a tentative answer to the hypothesis or thesis question or title
* open up new questions, suggest wider implications, future research
* suggest new areas for consideration
* be about 15-20% the length of the entire essay.

An argumentative essay may be written in the third person or first person or a combination of the two. It is different from the narrative essay in that there is less emphasis on story telling and more emphasis on arguing a point.

*Readings on the argumentative essay to be posted in the II semester.*

**Course textbook for Use of English**:

Betty S. Azar and Stacy A. Hagen, *Understanding and Using English Grammar (Fifth Edition)*, Pearson.

Recommended text for self-study (non frequentanti): **English File Digital Gold (Fourth edition)**, Oxford University Press ISBN: 9780194037921