



2. GENERAL INFORMATION OF THE SUBJECT

Course title	:	IELTS SPEAKING SKILLS
Semester	:	Autumn
Number of Credits	:	1
Total hours	:	32 hours
Each class contact duration	:	2 hours
Class contact number	:	16
Prerequisite	:	Proficiency level equivalent to 4.5 IELTS speaking
Teachers in charge	:	

3. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for the students of USTH to improve their English from the speaking level of band 4.5 IELTS. The course's main objective is to help them to study vocabulary of various topics, cultivate critical thinking skills and express their ideas clearly and coherently.

This course covers a number of familiar topics which will allow students to listen and speak in various social and academic situations. Students will have the opportunity to improve fluency and accuracy in speaking English due to various activities such as presentations and in-class discussions.

This course adopts learner-centered and communicative approaches.

The proficiency goal of this course is for the students to achieve at least Band 5.5 IELTS for speaking skill.

4. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the program, students are expected to be able to:

1. achieve at least 5.5 IELTS Speaking score;
2. be willing to speak at length;
3. use a range of connectives and discourse markers;

4. have a wide enough vocabulary to discuss topics at length and make meaning clear;
5. use a mix of simple and complex structures.

5. MATERIALS

Course books:

1. Week 1-5: Barry Cusack & Sam McCarter. (2007). *Improve your skills: IELTS Listening and Speaking*. Macmillan Publishers Limited
2. Week 6-8: Karen Kovacs. (2011). *Collins English for Exams: Speaking for IELTS*. HarperCollins Publishers
3. Book for homework: Sam McCarter. (2008). *IELTS testbuilder 2* (Sam Carter). MacMillan Publishers Ltd.

Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

Supplementary texts and materials are also included in the study pack for ease of reference. Detailed instructions and requirements on how to use and what to do with supplementary materials are to be given by individual lecturer.

6. COURSE POLICY

- **Attendance Policy:** Students who are absent for 3 sessions onwards will merit an automatic failure.
- No late submission or task completion is accepted, unless otherwise approved by the teacher at least ONE week before the deadline. Late submission will occur in 20% reduction of the allotted grade for each day late.
- Completion of all assignments is required as the condition to sit for the final test
- **Technology and Media:**
Email: Students can submit their home writing to the lecturer via email if allowed by him/her.
Laptop Usage: Students can use their laptops during the lecture to look up for new words, or to type their writing (as required by lecturer). However, they will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and marked as absent on that day if found using laptops for any purpose unrelated to that particular studying session.
- **Professionalism Policy:**
- Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, etc., **must be silenced** during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment.
- Students are supposed to arrive on time in all class meetings and participate actively in the lessons. Those who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned will gain a reduction of up to 50% in their final class grade.

- Academic Conduct Policy:** Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult University Policy for further details. As in all University courses, the University Policy will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

7. ASSESSMENT

Components	Description	Grade allotment
Attendance/ Homework Completion	Either absence or incomplete hw= mark zero for that class Homework completion+ participation= 2.5pts/class	10%
Midterm test-	CLASS 10- WEEK 5 Implemented in class, designed by teacher of each class Format: IELTS Speaking sections 1 and 2 (marked on band 9.0)- 5 minutes each interview Marks submitted to the department: both on band 9.0 and converted marks to band 20 The students must be informed of their results 2 weeks after the test as the latest. The department is NOT responsible for dealing with the students' queries on midterm test.	30%
Final test- Date to be confirmed	Implemented by the department Format: An IELTS Speaking full test (3 sections, band 9.0)- 7-10 each interview	60%

8. UNDERSTAND THE SPEAKING TEST

The Speaking test is as close to a real-life situation as an exam can get.

You will talk to a certified examiner in the IELTS Speaking test. The test is interactive and as close to a real-life situation as a test can get. A variety of accents may be used, and the test will be recorded.

Purpose of the test

The IELTS Speaking test is designed to assess a wide range of skills.

The examiner will want to see how well you can

- communicate opinions and information on everyday topics and common experiences; to do this you will need to answer a range of questions
- speak at length on a given topic using appropriate language
- organise your ideas coherently
- express and justify your opinions
- analyse, discuss and speculate about issues

Make sure that you relax and talk fluently. You will need to speak naturally.

Timing

The IELTS Speaking test takes 11-14 minutes.

Three sections

Section	Duration	Information
Part 1 Introduction and interview	4-5 minutes	The examiner will introduce him or herself and ask you to introduce yourself and confirm your identity. The examiner will ask you general questions on familiar topics, e.g. home, family, work, studies and interests. This section should help you relax and talk naturally.
Part 2 Individual long turn	3-4 minutes	The examiner will give you a task card which asks you to talk about a particular topic, including points to include in your talk. You will be given one minute to prepare and make notes. You will then be asked to talk for 1-2 minutes on the topic. You will not be interrupted during this time, so it is important to keep talking. The examiner will then ask you one or two questions on the same topic.
Part 3 Two- way discussion	4-5 minutes	The examiner will ask you further questions which are connected to the topic of Part 2. These questions are designed to give you an opportunity to discuss more abstract issues and ideas.

Marking

You will be assessed on your performance throughout the test by certificated IELTS examiners.

You will be marked on the four criteria of the IELTS Speaking Test Band Descriptors:

- fluency and coherence
- lexical resource
- grammatical range and accuracy
- pronunciation

Scores are reported in whole and half bands.

10. FRAMEWORK FOR IELTS SPEAKING SKILLS

Week#	Areas/Themes	Contents	Homework	Books used in class
1	Unit 1: Change & consequences	Identifying yourself Discussing familiar topics Saying where you come from	Test builder 2 Practice test 1- Section 1	<i>Improve skills for IELTS: listening and speaking</i>
2	Unit 2: The importance of the past	Describing a past event Planning Describing precautions	Test builder 2 Practice test 1- Section 2	
3	Unit 3: Machines, cycles, & processes	Discussion questions Expressing views	Test builder 2 Practice test 1- Section 3	
4	Unit 4: Education	Describing people Making notes	Test builder 2 Practice test 2- Section 1	
5	Unit 5: Youth	Describing jobs Advantages and disadvantages	Test builder 2 Practice test 2- Section 2	
6	Unit 6: Culture	Free time activities Expressing preferences Dealing with unfamiliar topics	Test builder 2 Practice test 2- Section 3	
7	Unit 7: Arts and sciences	Comparing and evaluating Expressing others' view	Test builder 2 Practice test 3- Section 1	
8	Unit 8: Nature	Describing animals Describing presents Making notes	Test builder 2 Practice test 3- Section 2	

9	Unit 9: Health Unit 10: Individual society	Recognizing similar questions Emphasizing main points Taking time to think Places and feelings Starting your description Summing impressions	Test builder 2 Practice test 3- Section 3	
10	MIDTEM TEST			MIDTEM TEST
11	Unit 4: The world around us	Using complex sentences	Test builder 2 Practice test 4- Section 1	Collins Speaking for IELTS
12	Unit 5: Technology	Phrasal verbs; sentence stress, the schwa Coherence	Test builder 2 Practice test 4- Section 2	
13	Unit 9: Home	Describing places Clarifying Paraphrasing; giving examples	Test builder 2 Practice test 4- Section 3	
14	Unit 10: Culture and modern society	Lining, using future forms, predicting questions	Practice questions assigned in class	
15	Unit 11: On the move	Expressing yourself indirectly; Extra stress	Practice questions assigned in class	
16	Revision	Review all strategies/ techniques		