ENGLISH LANGUAGE
SYLLABUS
Primary

Implementation starting with
2020 Primary One Cohort

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SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION:

21st CENTURY COMPETENCIES

Changing Context of Language Use
Desired Outcomes for 21st Century EL Learners in Singapore
Specific Aims of *EL Syllabus 2020*
Drawing on the Singapore Teaching Practice to Develop 21st Century EL Learners
1. INTRODUCTION: 21ST CENTURY COMPETENCIES

The English Language Syllabus 2020 for the Primary level focuses on the development, reinforcement and extension of language skills in the primary years through an enjoyment of the language and the promotion of extensive reading; and leveraging oracy, reading and writing skills to develop knowledge and independent use of the language.

Changing Context of Language Use

The context of language use in Singapore is influenced by many factors, both local and global. At home, English remains as the common language and one of the main *lingua franca* of the Internet, of science and technology and of world trade. Today, many challenging socio-economic factors make proficiency in English and the development of 21st century competencies even more necessary for our students. With the generational shift in home language, learning English in the classroom occurs in a linguistically diverse context.¹

Globally, the increasingly competitive international environment calls for an even greater need for linguistic and communicative competence, adaptability and flexibility. Economic and employment trends are also changing the way English is used.² In recent years, the rapid development in information technology has shaped our understanding of literacy³ and linguistic skills in English to include multiliteracies.⁴

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¹ Kubota & Mckay (2009).
² Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) Report, 10 February 2017; Bakhshi, Downing, Osborne & Schneider (2017).
Desired Outcomes for 21st Century EL Learners in Singapore

The Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes identifies three categories of competencies to enable our learners to take advantage of the opportunities in the digital age while staying connected to the Singapore heartbeat:

- core values as the moral compass, with character as the foundation of learning and behaviour
- social and emotional competencies
- 21st century competencies for the globalised world

Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes
© Ministry of Education, 2014

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Learner Outcomes and Values

Taking reference from the Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes, the EL Syllabus 2020 seeks to develop these competencies in our learners through the teaching and learning of EL to enable them to be:

**Empathetic communicators**
who possess the values, dispositions and skills to listen actively to different perspectives; communicate confidently, effectively and sensitively while collaborating with others to work towards shared goals; and balance an appreciation of the Singapore spirit with multi-ethnic and multicultural sensitivities.

**Discerning readers**
who possess broad worldviews by staying well informed and self-directed in the use of information, and are able to distinguish fact from falsehood by processing and evaluating information, critically and with discernment according to purpose, audience, context and culture.

**Creative inquirers**
who explore and evaluate real-world issues and multiple perspectives as well as gather and synthesise information from diverse print, non-print and digital networked sources, so as to co-create knowledge and solutions in familiar or new contexts.

Given the importance of 21st century competencies, our desired outcomes for our learners will also include opportunities to develop the following core values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Respect</strong></td>
<td>through appreciating diverse views and adopting appropriate social conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Responsibility</strong></td>
<td>through seeking out accurate, credible and current information to make informed decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resilience</strong></td>
<td>through self-appraising and self-regulated learning, and persevering in the pursuit of knowledge, understanding and personal growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Integrity</strong></td>
<td>through articulating ethical principles in the use and exchange of information and expression of ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Care</strong></td>
<td>through expressing empathy in communication and using language purposefully to contribute to the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Harmony</strong></td>
<td>through interacting and collaborating meaningfully and respectfully with others to achieve shared goals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specific Aims of *EL Syllabus 2020*

The overarching aim of the *EL Syllabus 2020* is to develop effective and affective\(^6\) language use in students in the following areas:

1. Listen to, read and view critically and with accuracy, understanding and appreciation a wide array of literary and informational texts in standard English\(^7\) from print, non-print and digital networked sources.

2. Speak, write and represent in standard English that is grammatical, fluent, intelligible and appropriate for different purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures.

3. Use standard English grammar and vocabulary accurately and appropriately, and understand how speakers/writers put words together and use language to communicate meaning and achieve impact.

4. Use English with impact, effect and affect.

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\(^6\) Andres (1999); Aoki (1999); Dörnyei & Otto (1998).

\(^7\) Internationally acceptable English that is grammatical, fluent and appropriate for purpose, audience, context and culture refers to the formal register of English used in different parts of the world.
Drawing on the Singapore Teaching Practice to Develop 21st Century EL Learners

The Singapore Teaching Practice (STP) is a model that makes explicit how effective teaching and learning is achieved in the Singapore classroom. It encompasses the Singapore Curriculum Philosophy, Knowledge Bases and Pedagogical Practices that guide Singapore educators to design and enact effective teaching experiences for our students. Besides the Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes, the EL Syllabus 2020 draws from the STP to facilitate effective teaching and learning of EL in Singapore.

**The Knowledge Bases** strengthen the theory-practice connection in our daily teaching practice. They provide teachers with an understanding of:
1. Subject Matter and Goals;
2. Students and Learning; and
3. Teaching.

The **Singapore Curriculum Philosophy** describes our core beliefs about teaching and learning, and our students’ role as learners. These beliefs anchor our practices, and guide our design and enactment of learning experiences so that every student is an engaged learner.

| **Singapore Curriculum Philosophy** | In the *EL Syllabus 2020*, the core belief about EL Teaching takes into consideration our vision of 21st century EL learners as well as the nature of language and language learning. |
| **Knowledge Bases** | In the *EL Syllabus 2020*, the principles of EL teaching and learning are encapsulated in CLLIPS. Together with the learning outcomes and areas of language learning, the Syllabus draws on our beliefs about students, and understanding about teaching and learning articulated through the Knowledge Bases in the STP. |
| **Pedagogical Practices** | In the *EL Syllabus 2020*, ACoLADE, which distills the essential EL Teaching Processes, draws from the Teaching Areas under the Pedagogical Practices of the STP. CLLIPS and ACoLADE together will guide EL teachers in the design and enactment of instruction and learning experiences differentiated for the 21st century EL classroom. |

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8 For more information on the Singapore Teaching Practice, access [https://www.moe.gov.sg/about/singapore-teaching-practice](https://www.moe.gov.sg/about/singapore-teaching-practice)
9 CLLIPS refers to the six principles of EL teaching and learning – Contextualisation, Learner-centredness, Learning-focused Interaction, Integration, Process Orientation, Spiral Progression.
10 ACoLADE refers to teaching processes to be employed during the pre-, main and post phases of EL lessons – Raising Awareness, Structuring Consolidation, Facilitating Assessment for Learning, Enabling Application, Guiding Discovery, Instructing Explicitly.
SECTION 2
CONTENT:
TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH IN SINGAPORE

General Beliefs and Principles Underpinning the EL Curriculum
Developing 21st Century Competencies through EL
Areas of Language Learning in *EL Syllabus 2020*
Summary Features of *EL Syllabus 2020*
Areas of Language Learning: Overview Diagrams & Overview Charts
2. CONTENT: TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH IN SINGAPORE

General Beliefs and Principles Underpinning the EL Curriculum

Importance of Language and Literacy in the Curriculum

The key learning goal of the EL Syllabus 2020 at the primary level is for students to build a strong foundation in English and apply their knowledge, skills and strategies in order to use the language to good effect and to demonstrate learning and mastery. EL Syllabus 2020 continues to underscore the teaching of internationally acceptable English (standard English) as a common standard for every student in the classroom.

- **Language is a means of making and generating meaning, and of communication that entails an integration of skills.**

  *Language is interwoven with meaning, hence the learning of skills, though taught systematically and explicitly, does not occur in a linear manner. Often, the learning of skills overlaps with an interplay of meaning. Teachers will draw attention to the integration of skills across all areas of language learning to provide the coherence and multiple contexts for making and creating meaning.*

- **Language is a system with rules, patterns and conventions which can be used to create various discourses or types and forms of texts, both print and non-print, for different purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures.**

  *In the EL Syllabus 2020, “texts” refers broadly to monomodal, bimodal and multimodal texts. These texts can come from diverse sources, such as print, non-print and digital networked sources, with rich, relevant content, hyperlinks and language exemplifying good and grammatical use of English.*

  *Teachers will use authentic texts of different types and forms to explore the features of language, and immerse students in the rich and diverse patterns of language use.*

  *Teachers will also regard grammar and vocabulary as resources in language development and use.*

- **Language learning builds on positive attitudes and behaviour, affective engagement, interaction and creative self-expression.**

  *Teachers will facilitate personal and/or critical responses to what is heard in the moment, read or viewed, including complex and ambiguous issues, to promote exploratory talk.*

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Such social engagement will encourage respectful, confident exchanges as well as a love and enjoyment of the language that will greatly enhance the motivation to learn it.

- **Language use is guided by our awareness and understanding of the purpose, audience, context and culture**\(^\text{12}\) in which communication takes place.

Both language learning and use are situated in social contexts to serve different purposes. For instance, for personal and creative self-expression; for informational and academic purposes, and/or for the enjoyment of learning and for learning in the subject areas. Awareness of the nature of the relationship among language participants (audience) and the semiotic modes of communication influence language use.

The context also determines the roles adopted by the language users – as decoders, text participants or meaning makers, text users of information and/or text analysts or critics.\(^\text{13}\) Culture, on the other hand, shapes the beliefs, values, perceptions and dispositions of the language learner and user towards language.

- **Learning English in a multilingual context, like Singapore, is different from learning it in a monolingual or first language context.**

Within the context of a linguistically diverse and increasingly multiliterate learning environment in the Singapore classroom, teachers are encouraged to adopt a principled blend of first language (L1) and second language (L2)\(^\text{14}\) methods to achieve a balance between systematic and explicit instruction, and a contextualised and holistic approach to teaching English.

### Developing 21st Century Competencies through EL

In line with the fast changing EL teaching-learning landscape, teachers are encouraged to pay increased attention to multiliteracies, metacognitive strategies and exploratory talk in order to help students achieve 21st century competencies across all areas of language learning.

- **Language learning in the 21st century is enhanced by multiliteracies.**

The expanded notion of “literacy” to incorporate multiliteracies takes into account the multi-dimensional nature of literacy, involving linguistic, cognitive, socio-cultural and developmental dimensions. Renewed emphasis is given to viewing and representing with the making and creation of meaning strengthened by rich multimodal perspectives. These perspectives relate to different semiotic modes in all areas of language learning.\(^\text{15}\)

Teachers teach multiliteracies by drawing attention to the changing nature of texts, their

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\(^{12}\) Halliday (1975, 1985); Halliday & Hassan (1985); Derewianka (1990); Derewianka & Jones (2012, 2016).


\(^{14}\) Lightbrown & Spada, (2013).

corresponding text functions and their different semiotic modes. Rather than to regard texts simply as products or things, texts are used to serve diverse purposes.16

- Language learning involves cognitive information processing17 and the use of metacognitive18 strategies before, during and after learning.

  Teachers guide students on the use of bottom-up and top-down information processing strategies and on the interaction of both in all language learning situations to strengthen and regulate response to learning.

  When teachers demonstrate how good learners actively apply their use of learner strategies and modulate their thought processes, students are guided in acquiring the habits of self-directed, independent learning. Students do so before, during and after learning in response to existing and new information.

- Language learning is deepened through exploratory talk in a variety of ways, including inquiry through dialogue19.

  As part of the process of deepening exploratory talk, teachers will facilitate student collaborative learning20, either in pairs or in groups, and engage learners through a diverse range of strategies, including the use of questioning techniques and thinking routines, and inquiry through dialogue.

- Language teaching will connect themes and texts meaningfully and appropriately to talk, task and technology in the classroom.

  Teachers will make judicious selection of texts with a variety of themes on Singaporean, Asian, contemporary and international topics and perspectives which will broaden students’ worldviews and enable them to make connections to real-world issues. Issues of culture can also be examined through texts.

  In the selection and use of texts, teachers need to bear in mind the text purposes that differentiate them. The suggested range of texts21 to be used across all areas of language learning and year levels include:

  - texts that entertain;
  - texts that recount what happened;
  - texts that instruct;
  - texts that describe and inform;
  - texts that explain;
  - texts that respond, argue, evaluate and/or persuade; and

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18 Flavell (1976); Pressley & Gaskins (2006).
19 Dewey, (1938); Hillocks, (1999); Wilhelm (2016).
20 Kohonen (1992) linked collaboration to developments in language learning.
• texts that contain more than one type and form of texts (hybrid texts).22

For the 21st century, technology will be a key resource in providing equitable access to digital networked sources of information to develop, complement and augment language learning both within and outside the classroom.

Areas of Language Learning (AoLL) in EL Syllabus 2020

Overview of the AoLL

The EL Syllabus 2020 outlines the following AoLL for the development of literacy:

• Listening and Viewing
• Reading and Viewing
• Speaking and Representing
• Writing and Representing
• Grammar
• Vocabulary

Integration of Skills and Emphases in the AoLL

Listening, reading and viewing are receptive skills which are required for the making and generation of meaning from ideas or information. Speaking, writing and representing are productive skills that enable the creation and communication of meaning.

The integration of receptive and productive skills provides the context for both oral and written communication and facilitates the incorporation of different semiotic features for effective and impactful text creation.

Listening and speaking place attention on the power of the spoken word and encourage students to respond actively, develop empathy and participate with respect, conviction and sensitivity. For this to happen, they have to be threaded intentionally throughout all areas of language learning, bearing in mind that much of listening and speaking, unlike reading and writing, occur in real time and the utterances, once articulated, sometimes cannot be retracted or repeated as easily. At the primary level, greater attention is paid to the development of positive dispositions in listening and viewing, to enable students to engage effectively when communicating or collaborating with others.

At the primary level, students build their foundation in literacy skills, including developing a positive disposition towards reading and viewing. They will read a variety of texts of increasing difficulty, in order to explore a range of issues and perspectives. To develop such skills, teachers will encourage students to read, listen to and view texts widely and for enjoyment, knowledge and learning, both in and out of the classroom, so that they can write about and

discuss topics of relevance and interest to them as well as apply their knowledge in other subject areas.

Students learn to create a broad range of cohesive and coherent texts appropriate to purpose, audience, context and culture, utilising print, non-print and digital resources to meaningfully engage readers by communicating with effect, impact and attention to affect. At the primary level, students also have the opportunity to convey their personal and critical responses to texts, experiences/situations, and popular topics/issues, so as to develop personal and critical points of view, strengthen elaboration and persuasion skills, and develop their voice and style in writing and representing.

Knowledge of grammar and vocabulary is integral to acquiring a strong foundation in the language to enable effective communication. Students are to regard grammar and vocabulary as resources\(^23\) to help them effectively express themselves and convey their ideas. The study of grammar and vocabulary also includes the metalanguage for students to talk about the features of words and language, both everyday and academic, and their associative meanings. Teachers will focus on grammar and vocabulary both explicitly and in the context of language use. At the primary level, greater focus is placed on developing grammatical knowledge and rich vocabulary for the purposeful use of language. More complex language use and purposes will be taught in tandem with development in all other areas of language learning.

The skills of viewing and representing are integrated with listening, reading, speaking and writing, so as to connect conventional literacies to multiliteracies and the different semiotic modes\(^24\) in language learning and development. Infusing viewing and representing into the areas of language learning allows teachers to integrate linguistic with non-linguistic skills, the use of print with non-print sources, as well as incorporate information, media and visual literacy skills to help students achieve 21st century competencies.

\(^{23}\) Halliday & Hassan (1985).

Summary Features of *EL Syllabus 2020*

The following diagram presents the key features of the *EL Syllabus 2020* undergirded by the principles of EL teaching and learning (CLLIPS) and EL teaching processes (ACoLADE). A pedagogical emphasis on Multiliteracies, Metacognition, and Inquiry through Dialogue in the EL classroom helps to develop knowledge of language and ensures effective and affective language use for all EL learners. The approach to language teaching and learning ensures a firm and rich foundation for all for future learning.
LISTENING AND VIEWING

Overview Diagram

LISTENING AND VIEWING
Develop appropriate listening and viewing attitudes and behaviour, and apply skills and strategies in a variety of contexts for effective communication and collaboration, strengthened by exposure to a wide range of listening and viewing texts.

FOCUS AREA
Listening and Viewing Closely with a Positive Disposition

FOCUS AREA
Listening and Viewing Critically

FOCUS AREA
Listening and Viewing Extensively

LO1
Develop auditory discrimination skills and positive listening and viewing attitudes and behaviour

LO2
Develop listening and viewing skills for understanding by focusing on literal and inferential meaning

LO3
Develop critical listening and viewing by focusing on implied meaning, higher-order thinking and evaluation

LO4
Listen to, view and respond to a variety of texts

SKILLS, STRATEGIES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR
### Overview Charts

#### Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/5N

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF LANGUAGE LEARNING</th>
<th>FOCUS AREAS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
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<td></td>
<td>LOWER PRIMARY</td>
<td>MIDDLE PRIMARY</td>
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<td>Listening and Viewing Closely with a Positive Disposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listening and Viewing Critically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listening and Viewing Extensively</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Listening and Viewing Closely with a Positive Disposition | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Listening and Viewing Critically | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Listening and Viewing Extensively | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- Develop a positive disposition by listening and viewing attentively for a sustained period, with empathy and respect, and by indicating response appropriately in a range of communicative contexts and interactions.
- Develop perception and recognition of sounds and words in context through phonological awareness and identification of key words, prosodic features and non-fluency features of spoken language.
- Listen and view for understanding by drawing on prior knowledge and contextual clues, including semiotic features, and applying a range of listening and viewing skills and learner strategies to interpret texts.
- Listen and view for understanding increasingly more complex information, including abstract ideas from diverse texts, by applying the full range of listening and viewing skills and learner strategies.
- Listen to, view and respond to texts for different purposes in a variety of contexts for enjoyment and understanding.
- Apply knowledge from listening to, viewing and responding to texts for different purposes (including arguments and discussions) in a variety of contexts for enjoyment and understanding to other areas of language learning.
- Strengthen perception and recognition of words in context through identification of key words, prosodic features and non-fluency features of spoken language.
- Listen and view for understanding increasingly more complex information, including abstract ideas from diverse texts, by applying the full range of listening and viewing skills and learner strategies.
- Listen and view critically by analysing different semiotic features in texts, determining the credibility of sources and relevance of information, and using comprehension monitoring strategies while listening and viewing.
- Listen and view critically by applying the full range of critical listening and viewing skills and strategies, including evaluating the relevance and soundness of arguments and comparing and contrasting different texts, and using comprehension monitoring strategies while listening and viewing.
READING AND VIEWING

Overview Diagram

READING & VIEWING

Develop beginning, close and critical reading and viewing skills, strategies, attitudes and behaviour to comprehend a variety of texts meaningfully, strengthened with wide and extensive reading and viewing.

FOCUS AREA

Reading and Viewing Closely

Reading and Viewing Critically

Reading and Viewing Widely and Extensively for Different Purposes

LO1

Develop reading and viewing readiness, word recognition skills, accuracy, fluency and positive reading and viewing attitudes and behaviour

LO2

Process and comprehend age-/year level-appropriate texts by focusing on literal and inferential meaning

LO3

Analyse, evaluate and appreciate age-/year level-appropriate texts by focusing on implied meaning, higher-order thinking and judgement

LO4

Respond to a wide and extensive range of texts for enjoyment and understanding how grammatical/lexical items and semiotic modes are used in diverse contexts

SKILLS, STRATEGIES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR
### Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/SN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF LANGUAGE LEARNING</th>
<th>FOCUS AREAS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
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<td></td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>P2</td>
<td>P3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Primary</td>
<td>Middle Primary</td>
<td>Upper Primary</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Reading and Viewing Closely
- Develop beginning reading and viewing to achieve accuracy and fluency through word recognition and acquiring a positive disposition.

#### Reading and Viewing Critically
- Respond to implied meaning and make personal connections with texts read and/or viewed using higher-order thinking and metacognitive strategies.

#### Reading and Viewing Widely and Extensively for Different Purposes
- Respond to a wide and extensive range of high-interest and age-appropriate texts, including selections of multimodal and hybrid texts, for different purposes – to examine the impact of different semiotic modes on text and meaning, to facilitate application of skills to other areas of language learning and subject areas, and for enjoyment.

- Apply close reading and viewing skills and strategies, including representing the ideas in texts, to demonstrate comprehension of texts with more complex and ambiguous meaning.

- Respond critically to and more deeply appreciate implied and ambiguous meaning in more complex texts by actively applying analysis, judgement and metacognitive strategies in the reading and viewing process, connecting such knowledge to the texts and beyond, and demonstrating understanding of how writers’ style can create impact and appeal.

- Respond to a wide and extensive range of exemplary works appealing to adolescent readers and viewers, including combinations of multimodal and hybrid texts, for different purposes – to analyse and evaluate the impact of different semiotic modes on text, meaning and language use, to facilitate application of skills to other areas of language learning and subject areas, and for enjoyment and personal development.
Overview Diagram

SPEAKING AND REPRESENTING

Develop knowledge of the features of spoken language and use speaking and representing skills, strategies, attitudes and behaviour to communicate appropriately according to purpose, audience, context and culture.

FOCUS AREA

Knowledge Base for Speaking and Representing

LO1
Develop knowledge and awareness of the features of speaking and representing

LO2
Develop accuracy and fluency in speaking and representing

LO3
Explore, generate, develop and organise ideas respectfully as individuals and collaboratively in planned and/or spontaneous situations for a variety of purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures

LO4
Speak and represent confidently, coherently and cohesively for a variety of purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures

LO5
Monitor, review, revise and refine responsibly before, during and after speaking and representing

Features of Spoken Language
Accuracy and Fluency
Planning Processes: Individual, Collaborative
Speaking and Representing to Fulfil Different Purposes
Self-Monitoring

SKILLS, STRATEGIES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR
## Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/SN

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Base for Speaking and Representing</td>
<td>Develop knowledge of the basic features of spoken language and recognise that language is used to fulfil different purposes.</td>
<td>Attain deeper knowledge of the features of spoken language, including variation in register according to situation.</td>
<td>Recognise the conventions of speech and the roles of speakers in different situations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Explore, gather and develop ideas from a variety of texts combining linguistic and other semiotic modes.</td>
<td>Gather, select and evaluate information.</td>
<td>Develop and organise ideas from a variety of texts combining linguistic and other semiotic modes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participate respectfully in discussion by upholding agreed-upon rules of exchange.</td>
<td>Participate respectfully in discussion to develop, articulate and represent ideas in real time in response to the listener(s).</td>
<td>Speak and represent with confidence, coherence and cohesion using different semiotic modes appropriately to fulfil different purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speak and represent with confidence, coherence and cohesion using different semiotic modes appropriately to fulfil different purposes.</td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to producing texts that recount, entertain, instruct and respond.</td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to producing texts that recount, entertain, instruct, describe, inform, respond and evaluate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to producing texts that recount, entertain, instruct, describe, inform, respond and evaluate.</td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to producing texts that recount, entertain, instruct, describe, inform, respond and evaluate.</td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to producing texts that recount, entertain, instruct, describe, inform, respond and evaluate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor self and others in order to correct mispronounced words and adjust inappropriate use of prosodic features.</td>
<td>Self-adjust planned speech, monitor and revise speech to adjust and improve communication based on intended purposes and response of the listener immediately after and upon reflection.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WRITING AND REPRESENTING

Overview Diagram

Develop a positive disposition towards writing and representing, writing readiness and handwriting, spelling accuracy, and apply skills and strategies for idea generation, selection, organisation, development, expression and revision in creating a variety of texts, to address different purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS AREA</th>
<th>FOCUS AREA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquiring the Mechanics of Writing</td>
<td>Writing and Representing Creatively and Critically for a Variety of Purposes, Audiences, Contexts and Cultures, both Individually and Collaboratively</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LO1</th>
<th>LO2</th>
<th>LO3</th>
<th>LO4</th>
<th>LO5</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop writing readiness and handwriting to write accurately and fluently</td>
<td>Use accurate and consistent spelling</td>
<td>Generate, select and organise ideas for writing and representing creatively and critically for a variety of purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures</td>
<td>Develop, organise and express ideas coherently, cohesively, creatively and critically in writing and representing to produce texts for a variety of purposes, audiences, contexts and cultures</td>
<td>Review, revise, edit and proofread to improve writing and representing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Handwriting | Spelling | Generation, Selection and Organisation of Ideas | Development, Organisation and Expression of Ideas | Review, Revision and Editing |

SKILLS, STRATEGIES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOUR
# Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/5N

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF LANGUAGE LEARNING</th>
<th>FOCUS AREAS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>LOWER PRIMARY</td>
<td>MIDDLE PRIMARY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing and Representing</td>
<td>Acquiring the Mechanics of Writing*</td>
<td>Develop writing readiness and write in print script. Apply spelling skills and strategies accurately for writing age-/year level-appropriate words.</td>
<td>Write neatly, legibly and fluently. Apply spelling skills and learner strategies accurately for writing frequently misspelled and multisyllabic words.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Writing and Representing Creatively and Critically for a Variety of Purposes, Audiences, Contexts and Cultures, both Individually and Collaboratively</td>
<td>Learn to write and represent by generating, selecting, organising, developing, expressing and revising ideas.</td>
<td>Apply skills for idea generation, selection, organisation, development, expression and revision so as to address the writer’s purpose, needs of the audience, context and culture in writing and representing. Pay increasing attention to the use of semiotic modes in text creation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learn to write and represent with some attention to the appropriate organisational structures and language features of texts for different purposes.</td>
<td>Write and represent with an explicit awareness of the appropriate organisational structures and language features of texts for different purposes.</td>
<td>Apply knowledge of appropriate organisational structures and language features to create a variety of increasingly sophisticated texts for different purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pay increasing attention to writing and representing texts that respond, argue, evaluate and/or persuade.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Apply knowledge of the relevant types and forms of texts to create hybrid texts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Support also the use of keyboarding and word processing skills to create texts.
GRAMMAR

Overview Diagram

**GRAMMAR**

Develop knowledge of grammar for the purposeful use of language at the word, phrase, sentence and text levels.

**FOCUS AREA**

Use of Terms

**LO1**

Use metalanguage for learning and talking about language structures and language in use

Metalanguage

**LO2**

Apply knowledge of grammatical rules at word and phrase levels

At Word and Phrase Levels

**LO3**

Apply knowledge of grammatical rules at sentence level

At Sentence Level

**LO4**

Show understanding of how the purposeful use of language shapes meaning in texts

Cohesion in Texts

Language Features of Types of Texts

**ITEMS AND STRUCTURES**
## Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/SN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA OF LANGUAGE LEARNING</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P1</td>
<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>Use of Terms</td>
<td>Learn metalanguage explicitly to talk about how language works at word and phrase levels and for identification of simple sentence functions in meaningful contexts.</td>
<td>Use metalanguage to talk about how language works at the text level and during editing and self-correction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar at Word, Phrase and Sentence Levels</td>
<td>Apply grammatical knowledge at the word, phrase and sentence levels to convey ideas accurately in different social contexts. Understand that by varying the forms of construction, different meanings are conveyed in different contexts.</td>
<td>Revisit and strengthen grammatical knowledge learnt previously. Identify and address recurring language errors to develop greater control in the use of language for speaking, writing and representing. Use appropriate language structures learnt previously to convey thoughts and opinions in interactions and communication with others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Grammar at Text Level</td>
<td>Use cohesive devices and grammatical structures to create links across different clauses, sentences and paragraphs. Identify and apply knowledge of language features in different types of texts during speaking, writing and representing. Recognise how the purposeful use of language shapes meaning in texts.</td>
<td>Apply knowledge of cohesive devices and grammatical structures to create links across different clauses, sentences and paragraphs. Apply knowledge of language features of texts and reproduce them in a full range of texts, including hybrid texts. Recognise how the purposeful use of language shapes meaning in texts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VOCABULARY

Overview Diagram

VOCABULARY
Develop knowledge of vocabulary for the purposeful use of rich language.

FOCUS AREA
Developing Rich Vocabulary Knowledge

LO1
Develop word consciousness and use metalanguage in building vocabulary knowledge

Use of Metalanguage

LO2
Build rich vocabulary knowledge that supports the development of listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and representing skills

Development of Rich Vocabulary

LO3
Use words appropriate for purpose, audience, context and culture

Use of Appropriate Vocabulary

ITEMS, STRUCTURES AND LEARNER STRATEGIES
### Progression of Skills from Primary 1 to Secondary 4E/5N

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>P2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>Developing Rich Vocabulary Knowledge</td>
<td>Focus on learning words through experience and enjoyment.</td>
<td>Develop and strengthen vocabulary knowledge, and take an active role in learning new vocabulary items.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop vocabulary knowledge and take an active role in learning new vocabulary items.</td>
<td>Develop rich vocabulary knowledge by examining how words are formed, how words relate to one another and how words are used in context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using Vocabulary</td>
<td>Use words suitable for purpose, audience, context and culture.</td>
<td>Use fixed expressions accurately and appropriately.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Use words meaningfully in conjunction with semiotic modes.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 3
PEDAGOGY: TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH

Approach to EL Teaching and Learning
English Language Teaching-Learning Principles
and Teaching Processes
3. PEDAGOGY: TEACHING AND LEARNING ENGLISH

Approach to EL Teaching and Learning

Provision of a Strong Foundation

To nurture 21st century competencies and the joy of learning, the foundation of language learning is laid from lower primary through:

- a greater focus on **accuracy and fluency in oral communication** (i.e., listening and speaking skills) using appropriate teaching actions for different year levels;
- a focus on the **enjoyment of language**, even as students formally learn the metalanguage and grammatical items associated with texts. There will be systematic and explicit instruction of **grammar**, with a focus on word, phrase and sentence level grammar before a gradual incorporation of text level grammar from upper primary to secondary levels;
- attention to phonemic awareness, phonics and **early literacy skills** at the start of Primary 1 to lay the foundation for acquiring reading fluency, comprehension and viewing skills and strategies at all levels;
- attention to **vocabulary** development at all levels;
- an emphasis on learning-focused **interaction** at class and group levels;
- the development of **writing and representing skills** and learner strategies for idea generation, selection, organisation, development, expression and revision of ideas, so as to create texts with cohesion and coherence; and
- attention to greater integration between **receptive and productive skills** with encouragement of **positive dispositions** towards learning and the development of **metacognitive skills** from the early years.
Provision of Rich Language for All

To further strengthen lifelong learning and the integration and application of knowledge across all areas of language learning, the EL curriculum will be enriched through a focus on:

- encouraging students’ own selection of a wide variety of multimodal texts for their rich language for independent listening, reading and viewing;
- varying the exposure of students to information-rich content with increasing sophistication and complexity from multiple print, non-print and digital networked sources;
- developing critical literacy skills that encourage critical and creative thinking, making connections beyond the texts, the co-construction of knowledge and creation of new understandings;
- extensive listening, reading and viewing where students gather and analyse information from multimodal texts and multicultural contexts, intensively and widely, for learning in the subject areas and research purposes; and
- increasing opportunities for students to engage in the authentic and creative production of a variety of texts for different purposes through speaking, writing and representing, so as to demonstrate the use of language with confidence, persuasion and thoughtfulness.

English Language Teaching-Learning Principles and Teaching Processes

CLLIPS, which refers to the principles of EL teaching and learning, directs teachers to apply knowledge of the disciplinarity of EL to guide their students towards a deeper understanding of the language and its use, and facilitate the transfer of learning. Teachers will design such student-centred learning experiences at departmental and classroom level.

ACoLADE, which refers to EL teaching processes, guides teachers in the design of instruction and enactment of learning experiences in the 21st century EL classroom.

Together, CLLIPS and ACoLADE help teachers think more deeply about planning and teaching EL to provide all students with access to the richest curriculum a school can offer. EL teachers use CLLIPS and ACoLADE thoughtfully and flexibly in their instructional planning and classroom teaching.
**Contextualisation** involves designing learning tasks and activities for students to learn language in authentic and meaningful contexts. For example, lessons will be planned around learning outcomes, a theme or a type of text to help students use related linguistic and non-linguistic skills, grammatical items, structures and vocabulary appropriately in spoken and written language using different semiotic modes to suit purpose, audience, context and culture.

**Learner-centredness** means putting learners at the heart of the teaching and learning process and empowering them. It involves differentiating teaching according to students’ readiness, interests and learning profiles. It also requires employing effective pedagogies to engage students, strengthen their language development and stretch their potential.

**Learning-focused Interaction** entails providing a rich and responsive learning environment for communication. It explicitly fosters oral communication skills and focuses on achieving learner and learning outcomes. It actively engages students by encouraging participation, interaction and boosting their confidence in the use of language. It promotes collaboration and rapport among learners from different socio-cultural backgrounds by fostering positive relationships among students. This can be accomplished by creating a positive classroom culture, for example, through building trust among students, establishing clear expectations and routines, and maintaining positive discipline by encouraging fair and appropriate behaviour in EL lessons.

**Integration** involves teaching the receptive skills, productive skills, grammar and vocabulary in an integrated way, with one set of skills building on another, using texts from relevant print, non-print and digital networked sources, to provide different perspectives and meaningful connections, including to the wider contexts of language use.

**Process Orientation** sees the teacher modelling, scaffolding and differentiating the learning processes for the development of language skills and knowledge about language, while guiding students to put together their final spoken, written and/or multimodal products.

To achieve **Spiral Progression**, the teacher instructs, revises and revisits skills, grammatical items, structures and various types and forms of texts, including multimodal and hybrid texts, at increasing levels of difficulty and sophistication.
A - Raising Awareness
Motivate learning and help students pay attention to what is to be learnt. Help them make connections with what they already know by activating prior knowledge.

C - Structuring Consolidation
Revisit and reinforce what has been learnt.

L - Facilitating Assessment for Learning (AfL)
Identify students’ readiness for learning, interests and learning profiles. Monitor their learning and provide timely and useful feedback for improving learning and self-assessment.

A - Enabling Application
Teach language in authentic contexts of use and model its use. Let students learn through working collaboratively with the teacher and other students.

D - Guiding Discovery
Facilitate discovery by prompting, posing questions and supporting the process by which students can learn about a skill, strategy, process or rule without prior or explicit instruction.

E - Instructing Explicitly
Explain and clarify a skill, strategy or process directly and systematically, in addition to teaching it in contexts of meaningful use.
SECTION 4: ASSESSMENT

Responsive Teaching, Responsive Assessment
Why Assess
Aims of Assessment in School
Types of Assessment Tasks
Planning a Balanced Assessment
4. ASSESSMENT

Responsive Teaching, Responsive Assessment

Implementing a responsive assessment policy is an integral part of the teaching and learning cycle. Assessment that is responsive helps teachers and students know where the students are, where they are going and how to get there. It uses information from different assessment tasks to provide evidence of student learning and progress, and hence shapes reflection, instructional planning and adaptations to instruction. It also helps to address learning gaps, improve teaching practices, provide clarity of purpose for instruction and consequently helps students to progressively become self-directed learners.

Why Assess

For teaching and learning to be effective, teachers will identify and monitor students’ changing needs, proficiencies and interests so that they can plan or adapt their teaching methods and approaches to help students. Teachers will help students know and recognise the attainment targets and the criteria against which they can monitor and assess their own progress. Teachers will also give timely and useful feedback to students and provide them with opportunities to act on the feedback to improve their learning. These responsive learner-centred processes help students reflect on how well they have learnt, making them self-directed learners.

Aims of Assessment in School

EL teachers will practise responsive assessment to:

- promote and improve students’ learning\(^{25}\) through regular progress monitoring;
- establish what students can do as learners of EL based on the aims and learning outcomes in the syllabus;
- support self-directed learning; and
- use assessment information to differentiate instruction and cater to students’ different levels of learning readiness, interests and learning profiles.

Types of Assessment Tasks

Teachers will assess students both formally and informally at a frequency decided by the school using different modes of assessment so that a wide range of SSAB can be developed and I&S can be learnt. The assessment tasks need to take into account different students’ learning readiness, interests and learning profiles.

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While assessment at upper primary may converge on a narrower range of specific learning outcomes, assessment at lower and mid-primary, which can be formal as well as informal, could cover a more varied range of learning outcomes.
Planning a Balanced Assessment

When planning assessment in school, teachers will align assessment with the requirements and learning outcomes of the syllabus.

Teachers will use the following as a guide:

1. Refer to the EL Syllabus 2020.
2. Decide on the Learning Outcomes to be attained for each year level and in the areas of language learning as presented in EL Syllabus 2020.
3. Craft a balanced assessment plan that assesses language skills and knowledge in a valid, reliable and holistic manner.
   Consider:
   - the purpose of the assessment;
   - a wide range of assessment modes and tasks that will appropriately match student learning needs, specifically their readiness, interests and learning profiles;
   - the length of time needed for students to acquire and practice the skills and learner strategies before being assessed;
   - the quality and use of feedback to facilitate student learning and progress;
   - specifications to guide assessment at different year levels in order to closely align assessment with teaching; and
   - the use of holistic or analytic scoring where most appropriate, to facilitate formative and summative assessment.
4. Draw up an Instructional Programme that helps students attain the Learning Outcomes and learning goals by identifying the:
   - SSAB and I&S to be taught and assessed;
   - strategies to teach the SSAB and I&S; and
   - print and non-print resources based on different semiotic modes that will enhance teaching and learning.

Formative and summative assessment are not separate constructs. Teachers are encouraged to use both the formative and summative purposes of assessment to inform and support teaching and learning at all times and to inform future practice.
SECTION 5: GLOSSARY OF TERMS
# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The key terms in this syllabus are listed here in alphabetical order as a source of quick reference.

## Terms in Alphabetical Order

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment for Learning</td>
<td>Assessment which has a formative purpose in that it is used to provide useful feedback to teachers and students that can improve both teaching and learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The term is often used in contrast to assessment of learning which is summative in nature and aims to certify learning for reporting to stakeholders about students’ learning achievements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment task</td>
<td>An activity that is set to collect learning achievement data for various purposes, including communicating findings to stakeholders, planning further tasks, and for improving teaching and learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital networked sources</td>
<td>A communication system which links multiple users together using a digital network, e.g., the Internet, learning management systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explicit instruction</td>
<td>Instruction which involves the teacher modelling and providing explanations of the specific strategies students are learning, giving guided practice and feedback on the use of the strategies, and promoting independent practice to apply the strategies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluency</td>
<td>Reading fluency refers to reading at a level of accuracy and rate where decoding is relatively effortless and oral reading is smooth, with correct stress and intonation, and where attention can be allocated to comprehension.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Functions of language</td>
<td>Language is often described as having the following major functions: a descriptive function, a social function, an expressive function and a textual function (i.e., for creating written and spoken texts).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid texts</td>
<td>Texts that combine and contain more than one type of text and form. There is typically a mixing of elements from different sources or genres. Infotainment is an example of a hybrid text which aims to both inform and entertain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information literacy</td>
<td>The ability to access and evaluate information from different sources, and to use it meaningfully and effectively.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informational texts</td>
<td>Texts about real people, places and events, largely giving factual information to readers, e.g., documentaries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Learning outcome                          | An expected attainment target to be achieved as a result of teacher instruction. It specifies the desired result or output; not the input (e.g., content and methods). The key question it addresses is: What will students
know and be able to do as a result of instruction?

To determine if outcomes have been attained or achieved, students are expected to demonstrate mastery of basic language skills, learner strategies, attitudes and behaviour, and items and structures, which can be measured through informal or formal assessment tasks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literary language</th>
<th>Specific, deliberate constructions and choices of language which a writer uses to convey, reinforce and enhance meaning in writing of a literary nature (e.g., similes, metaphors).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literary texts</td>
<td>Texts that relate an event, a series of events or a story. A literary text can be imaginary, as in a short story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media literacy</td>
<td>The ability to access, analyse, evaluate and create information in a variety of forms and media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metacognition</td>
<td>Knowledge of the cognitive processes used in learning, including planning, monitoring and evaluating the learning before, during and after it has occurred, so as to make decisions about what to focus on, refine or repair to achieve learning progress or to respond to different learning problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multimodal</td>
<td>Use of more than one mode of communication – linguistic, visual, gestural, audio and spatial – in a single text to convey meaning. A multimodal text also makes connections between the semiotic modes to make meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational structure</td>
<td>Different types of texts are characterised by the way information is sequenced and organised and this structure creates the coherence in a text.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prosodic features</td>
<td>Speech features that often extend across more than one speech sound. These include stress, intonation, volume and pace.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Register</td>
<td>Variety of language used in specific social situations or interactions. The register that one chooses to use is based on the formality or informality of the context, and varies according to the type of situation, setting, participants and the topic discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representing</td>
<td>The active process of applying skills and strategies to present facts, ideas and points of view through a variety of texts with linguistic, visual, gestural, audio and spatial semiotic features.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaffolding</td>
<td>A teaching/learning strategy where students engage in a collaborative task/interaction with an experienced other (e.g., the teacher, peer) during which demonstrations, support, guidance and input are provided and then gradually withdrawn as the students become increasingly independent and are able to work without help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semiotic modes</td>
<td>Modes of communication (i.e., linguistic, visual, gestural, audio and spatial) that are used to understand, interpret, analyse and construct...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
meaning in a text.

**Task**

Within the classroom, an activity that is designed to help students acquire or develop a specific skill, learner strategy, attitude, behaviour, item and/or structure or, specifically, a learning outcome.

**Text**

Literary and informational texts which are well-written and engaging. They are rich in content and concern themselves with a variety of themes, topics, ideas and issues. These texts can be monomodal, bimodal or multimodal from diverse sources (e.g., print, non-print and from digital networked sources).

**Theme**

In non-fiction, theme is the main idea of the piece; in literature, it is the dominating idea or the message implicit in a work. Seldom stated directly in the writing, it is an abstract concept that must be inferred by the reader or viewer.

**Tone**

The mood or atmosphere of a work. It can also be the reflection of the writer’s attitude to the reader (e.g., formal, informal) or the writer’s treatment of the subject matter (e.g., light, serious).

**Topic**

What a text is about, i.e., its subject or focus.

**Type of text**

The purpose and context of a text determine its type. Types of texts (e.g., personal recounts, factual recounts, narratives, descriptive reports and arguments) are defined by their purposes.

**Viewing**

The active process of applying skills and learner strategies to interpret and understand a variety of texts that uses linguistic, visual, gestural and spatial semiotic features.

**Visual literacy**

The ability to construct meaning from symbols and images, and to communicate through visuals means.

**Year levels**

They refer to:
- Lower Primary – Primary 1 and 2
- Middle Primary – Primary 3 and 4
- Upper Primary – Primary 5 and 6
- Lower Secondary – Secondary 1 and 2
- Upper Secondary – Secondary 3, 4 and 5
References for the Glossary


SECTION 6: REFERENCES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
REFERENCES


Pressley, M., & Gaskins, I.W. (2006). Metacognitively competent reading comprehension is constructively responsive reading: How can such reading be developed in students? *Metacognition Learning, 1*, 99–113


**Singapore EL Syllabuses**


**MOE Documents**


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