

# LCM Examinations

## ESOL Syllabus (English as a Second / Other Language)

### LCM Examinations

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*London College of Music has been involved in the assessment of the spoken word since the 19th Century, and its graded and diploma examinations have become widely recognised as valuable qualifications in Drama and Communication. LCM Exams has an impressive record of responding to changing needs and circumstances and is now very pleased to be using its expertise to offer these new examinations specifically designed for candidates for whom English is not their first language.*

*The examinations are carefully graded to provide an accurate indication of attainment and an encouragement to further progress. By the time candidates have completed the highest grade they should be able to undertake further qualifications drawn from the syllabus of examinations in Drama and Communication, which may include Public Speaking or Music Theatre.*

*Clearly defined learning goals and criteria for assessment will enable students and teachers to use these examinations as a structure for progress. However, the emphasis throughout the work of this examining board is on making the examination itself a positive and enjoyable experience and every effort is made to put candidates at ease; enabling them to express themselves with increasing confidence in English.*

*We hope that the exploration of this syllabus will prove both stimulating and constructive and will reward candidates with a real sense of achievement. Great care has been taken to ensure that the examinations are suitable for candidates of all ages and cultural backgrounds, but LCM Exams will always be glad to receive feedback from teachers and students alike.*

*We wish you every success.*

# Sections of Examinations

## **Prepared - 40 marks**

(Topics chosen by the candidate before the examination)

- Presentation/talk on a chosen topic – object, picture, article, event.
- Candidates are encouraged to bring materials / objects / photos to help in their presentation.
- Candidates are judged on the quality of what they've said and the extent to which they have met the requirements of the grade.
- Presentation initially uninterrupted; examiner only intervenes to support the student or provoke discussion.

## **Semi Prepared - 30 marks**

(Topics and activities chosen by the examiner at the time of the examination)

- Questions/discussion arising from the initially uninterrupted prepared presentation.
- The examiner usually chooses ONE of suggested situations or topics from the syllabus (role plays, conversations). See each grade for details.

## **Unprepared - 30 marks**

- Initial courtesies.
- Comprehension of questions.
- Flow of conversation.
- Discussion of text/picture chosen by the examiner.
- Reading of unprepared text aloud.
- Suggested role plays.

NO THEORY OF GRAMMAR IS TESTED.

# Criteria for Assessment

## **Fluency**

Understanding, flow of response, interactive communication, contribution to conversation.

## **Pronunciation and Intonation**

## **Clarity and Style**

Expressing thoughts, feelings, describing, presenting arguments, achieving tasks fully.

## **Range**

Accuracy of grammar, vocabulary, and structures, use of colloquial and formal language, range of vocabulary.

# Attainment Levels

Although these criteria relate to all grades they are applied only to those skills and tasks listed under each grade examination.

## **A *Pass* candidate will:**

- be present for the examination on time
- complete all sections of the examination
- give evidence of adequate preparation
- be intelligible whilst making some errors in grammar and pronunciation
- respond to greetings and questions with reasonable fluency
- speak audibly and show awareness of courtesies
- employ an accurate if limited range of vocabulary
- attain a minimum of 65 marks out of 100

## **A *Merit* candidate will:**

- fulfil all the Pass requirements
- demonstrate good preparation
- demonstrate a sound grasp of pronunciation and the appropriate grammar
- speak with some fluency and confidence
- use appropriate and varied vocabulary
- respond to and sometimes initiate questions
- communicate effectively, albeit with occasional errors
- attain a minimum of 75 marks out of 100

## **A *Distinction* candidate will:**

- fulfil all the requirements for Pass and Merit
- demonstrate excellent preparation
- use good pronunciation and relatively complex language structures
- use English imaginatively and fluently within the context of the appropriate grade
- move easily between formal and colloquial expression
- initiate conversation and elaborate on simple answers to questions
- attain a minimum of 85 marks out of 100

# How to Enter

LCM examinations are held at over 250 regional public and private centres across the UK and Ireland. Overseas centres include Canada, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong, Malta, Turkey, India, Cyprus and Greece.

There are two ways to enter:

## 1. Public Centres

A full list of public centres with contact details is available on the LCM Examinations website. Alternatively, you may contact the LCM Exams office for this information. Entries and fees must be submitted to your local representative on or before the closing date, as listed on entry forms. The representative is responsible for devising the timetable.

## 2. LCM Visits

An LCM examiner will visit a school or college, provided there are sufficient entries to make the visit viable, and any venue-related costs are covered by the applicant. The co-ordinating teacher is responsible for timetabling the examination day. Some flexibility is possible, and teachers are invited to telephone LCM Examinations on +44 (0)20 8231 2364.

Entries, together with payment and date requests, are normally to be received no later than 6 weeks before the requested examination start date. In these cases, provided an examination date and estimate of the number of candidates is supplied, the date for receipt of entries and payment can be negotiated.

*Please read the Regulations and Information section at the end of this syllabus thoroughly before making an examination entry.*

# Grade One

## Language functions:

Greeting and general questions

Personal information

Describing people and things

Responding to simple commands and requests

Numbers

Colours

Parts of body

Clothes

## Grammar:

Present simple (to have, to be, common verbs)

Present continuous

Imperatives

Nouns – singular and plural

Adjectives

Articles

There is .... / there are ....

Simple questions

Saxon Genitive

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- Bring an object (toy / picture, etc) and describe it.
- On the basis of a photograph, describe your friend / parent / child/ favourite actor, etc.
- Describe yourself.
- Give a personal introduction.

**Semi prepared.** Some of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- What is your name?
- Have you got brothers / sisters / children, etc?
- How old are you?
- How are you today?
- Is it your pen?
- Where do you live / work / go to school?
- Does your mother / sister / wife play football?
- Have you got a bike / car?
- Do you like animals / singing / watching TV / cooking?
- How many are there in your family?
- What are you wearing?
- What do you like doing?

## **Unprepared**

Describing a given picture, followed by responding to the examiner's questions about the picture: e.g. "Are there ..." / "What are they doing?" / "What is it?" / "What colour ..." / "Show me the house." / "How many ..."

# Grade Two

## Language functions:

Giving directions  
Describing the weather  
Describing places / towns  
Asking and giving information  
Describing daily routine and free time  
Family relationships and friends  
Animals  
Hobbies and interests  
Apologies and excuses  
Meeting new people

## Grammar:

Present simple and continuous  
Basic past simple  
Can / can't  
Question tags  
Accountable and uncountable nouns  
Frequency adverbs  
There is / there are

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- My hobbies / interests.
- What is your favourite place / town? Why?
- Describe your room / house.
- Describe your ideal friend / husband / boss / teacher.
- Make a list of a few people in your school / at work. Explain to a new student / colleague why they are important, whom you like or do not, and give him / her advice how to treat them.

**Semi Prepared.** Some of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- What are your hobbies?
- What is the weather like today?
- What do you usually do on Saturdays?
- Your favourite animals / food / TV programme / record / game / sport / singer / music.
- How do you spend your weekends?
- Why do you want to speak English?

**Unprepared.** One or more of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- When visiting your friend, you accidentally destroyed his / her toy / TV set / stereo. You have to provide an explanation and excuse.
- Ask your examiner as many questions as possible about a given picture.
- You meet somebody on the train, you are bored and you start a conversation.

# Grade Three

## Language functions:

Talking about the past  
Talking about plans for the future  
Likes and dislikes  
Simple comparisons  
Giving reasons  
Giving instructions  
Sport and hobbies  
Expressing necessity  
Telephone conversation  
Making arrangements and appointments

## Grammar:

Have to  
Modal verbs  
Future simple  
Going to  
Adjectives (comparatives and superlatives)  
Adverbs  
Past simple

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- Summarise your favourite fairy tale / detective story / film / drama, etc.
- Present your own fairy tale / short story / detective story, etc.
- The best holiday I have ever had.
- How I imagine my life in 25 years.
- My personal hero / heroine.

**Semi Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- Book the tickets to a cinema (telephone conversation).
- You are at the tourist information. Get to know how and when you can get to London.
- Invite somebody to the theatre / cinema / circus.
- What are your plans for the next holidays.
- Do you like travelling / soap-operas / going to the cinema / reading?
- What did you do last year?

**Unprepared.** One or more of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- Briefly describe picture A, and then spot the differences in picture B.
- Conversation about last / next / best holiday.
- What do you like doing most in your leisure time?
- You ring your friend and ask him / her to go out.

# Grade Four

## Language functions:

Giving advice and directions

Expressing possibility

Talking about the past

Cause and effect

Identifying positions

## Grammar:

Present perfect

Adverbials (for, since, yet, already)

Past continuous

First conditional

Must / could / need

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- I will never forget that dream.
- My most embarrassing / frightening moment.
- Eating meat is murder.
- Smoking should be banned in public places.

**Semi Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- Violent computer games / films / books are only harmless fun.
- Entertaining your friends – what do you do?
- Have you ever been to ... ?
- Have you ever seen a famous person?
- What kind of music do you prefer?
- How important are your friends / relatives to you?

**Unprepared.** One or more of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- You have just got to know that you have won a fortune ...
- You are given a plan of a town. Explain to a tourist how to get from the station to .....
- Discuss the results of a given questionnaire / survey.
- You have received a letter from a friend. What would you advise her?

# Grade Five

## Language functions:

Expressing feelings and emotions

Expressing suggestions and probability

Conditionals

Expressing hopes

Education

Fluent reading

Giving advice

## Grammar:

Second and third conditionals

Future perfect

Present perfect continuous

Relative clauses

Irregular plurals

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

(a file/folder/picture should be used)

- Present a detailed plan of your ideal room / weekend / exam.
- Three things I would take when leaving the Earth for Mars.
- He / she has been the most important person in my life.

**Semi Prepared.** Some of the following, chosen by the examiner:

Conversation about objects / people not included in PREPARED speech, (e.g. If a student stated that he would take a guitar, a certain book and a certain film, when leaving the Earth for Mars, the examiner may ask him / her, “Wouldn’t any medicine be more important for you?” or “You would not have a video recorder to watch your film,” etc.)

- If I became very famous .....
- My hopes for the future.
- A place I will definitely visit in my life.
- My first week at school.
- The country I would like to live in.
- What would you change in your country / school if you were an M.P. / the president / the monarch / the headmaster?

## **Unprepared**

Read a short passage taken from a newspaper, followed by discussion about its topic, questions about its meaning, personal opinions / reactions of the student.

# Grade Six

## Language functions:

Expressing wishes and regrets  
Expressing abstract ideas  
Developing arguments  
Reporting  
Describing national festivals and customs

## Grammar:

Past perfect  
Wish  
Reported speech  
Passive voice  
Irregular verbs  
Would rather  
Had better

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- Interview a friend or a parent / partner and present a report of it.
- Describe a festival etc. you have seen. Present opinions of other people about the event.
- Describe your favourite national custom.
- Travels broaden the mind.

**Semi Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- What inventions in the last few years have been most influential?
- What is your greatest ambition?
- Your most enjoyable party.
- The worst / silliest lie you have been told.
- Things I wish I had known when I was 10.
- Customs in your country.
- What makes two people friends?
- Your portrait of the ideal family.

## **Unprepared**

Describe and discuss given portraits / pictures. Invent a story for one of them.

# Grade Seven

## Language functions:

Developing arguments

Using relevant and appropriate register

Evaluating and concluding

Reviewing

Maintaining natural conversation

## Grammar:

Modal verbs + have + past participle

Basic phrasal verbs

Compound verbs

Gerund and infinitive

Clauses

Prepositions

**Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the candidate:

- Present a review / summary of a book / play / film / art exhibition, etc.
- Wars never solve anything.
- Money makes the world go round.

**Semi Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- The attractions of student life.
- Book, plays and films should be censored.
- Friends are thieves of time.
- Vicious and dangerous sports should be banned.
- It is wrong to pay people so much money for playing sport.
- Why is English a world language?
- Any topic from Grades 5 and 6.

## **Unprepared**

Read a fragment of a given story aloud and finish it or comment on it.

# Grade Eight

## Language functions:

Contradicting

Implying

Inferring

Natural and confident conversation

Adequate pronunciation

Colloquial expressions

## Grammar:

Phrasal verbs

Inversion

Adequate use of articles and tenses

Idioms

## Prepared

EITHER Give TWO speeches, one informative/descriptive and one persuasive, on history / politics / religion / sociology / technology / art / etc

OR Describe your favourite toy/object and then try to persuade the examiner to buy it.

OR One cannot always tell the truth.

**Semi Prepared.** One of the following, chosen by the examiner:

- Drugs / alcohol / money – the way to hell or heaven?
- Nudists / naturists should be banned.
- School is the best time of one's life.
- It is better to be 18 than 40.
- There is no generation gap in modern society.
- Capital punishment is the only way to deter criminals.
- Television destroys imagination.
- You have woken up in 2050.
- Reading is a waste of time.

## **Unprepared**

Read a short literary passage and discuss it (review, summary, personal reactions of the student, etc), followed by questions about the meaning of the text.

# Regulations and Information

1. This syllabus may be used for examinations from 1 January 1998.
2. **Examination Centres:** There are over 250 LCM public centres across the UK and overseas. In addition the College conducts examinations at schools, colleges and teaching studios on a private centre basis provided the practical entries reach a minimum of 5 hours, and no costs are incurred by LCM Examinations.
3. **LCM Visits:** examinations may be held at any time of the year, provided there are sufficient entries from a centre to warrant a visit. Entries should be received 6 weeks before the examination start date.
4. **Public Centre entries** (appropriate for single entries or small numbers): In the UK and Ireland examinations are held 3 times a year: Spring (March/April), Summer (June/July) and Winter (November/December).
5. **Closing dates for entry at Public Centres:** Completed entry forms, together with full fees must be submitted to the representative of the chosen examination centre on or before the following dates:

For Spring examinations	1 February
For Summer examinations	1 May
For Winter examinations	1 October

N.B. Entries submitted by fax will not be accepted.
6. **Late entries:** These may be accepted up to seven days after the last date of entry. Each entry must be accompanied by the current late fee for each candidate. No entry will be accepted if it is received at a later date.
7. Examinations are held in a range of musical subjects, as well as Drama and Communication.
8. LCM Examinations reserves the right to refuse entry without giving a reason. Entries are accepted subject to the regulations stated in this booklet.
9. **Fees:** A complete table of current examination fees is available (in the UK and Ireland this is on the back of the entry form). Cheques etc. must be made payable to Thames Valley University. Fees cannot be refunded, nor entries postponed to a later examination session, and candidates not attending examinations for which they have entered will forfeit their fees.
10. **Absence through illness:** If a candidate is unable to attend one or more sections of the examination, a medical certificate (dated no later than the day of the examination) must be sent to LCM Examinations immediately. The candidate will then be permitted to re-enter for the same examination at the next session on payment of half the current fee.

11. No one, other than the candidate(s) and the examiner(s), is allowed into the examination room.
12. **Substitutions:** Only candidates officially entered will be accepted for examination, and substitution of a candidate in place of a candidate originally entered will not be allowed.
13. **Transfers:** Transfer of candidates from one centre to another will not be considered unless there are exceptional circumstances which have been approved by LCM Examinations in writing. An administration charge will be made.
14. **Enquiries and appeals:** Information about lodging enquiries and appeals against results is contained in the document *LCM Examinations Appeals Procedure*, available from LCM Examinations. Initial enquiries must be made in writing, enclosing a copy of the examiner's marksheet.
15. **Examination Results:** A written report will be compiled for each examination. Candidates will be informed by the Centre Representative of the result of practical examinations at the end of the session.
16. Certificates for successful candidates are normally dispatched within three months, but very often they will be received sooner than this.
17. Certificates issued for graded examinations are not intended to imply that the holder is qualified to teach, nor do they give the holder the right to use any letters after his or her name.
18. **Special consideration (including absence through illness):** Candidates who are unable to take an examination at the scheduled time, for medical reasons, are invited to submit a signed doctor's letter indicating the reason, and accompanied by the Attendance notice, to the LCM Examinations office. The letter must be submitted within two weeks of the examination date, and must make clear that the candidate was incapacitated on the day of the scheduled examination. The candidate will then be permitted to re-enter for the same examination on payment of half the current fee. Candidates who are unwell on the day of the examination, but elect to take the exam nonetheless, will not be granted any special consideration in terms of assessment, and will not be eligible for a half-fee re-entry. Candidates who are unable to take an examination for compassionate reasons (e.g. death of a relative) are also covered under this policy. The full policy is contained in the document *Equality of Opportunity, Reasonable Adjustments, and Special Consideration*, available on request from the LCM Examinations office.
19. **Where changes to syllabuses or additions/alterations/deletions to existing examination syllabuses take place, the LCM cannot accept responsibility for informing candidates and teachers of such changes except through Forte (the LCM Examinations newsletter) and the normal reprinting process.**