




ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE  
Cambridge

## ENGLISH & IELTS POLICY

ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE POLICY DOCUMENT	
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### Information for students:

A high level of English is an essential part of performing well in all parts of your course. The higher your level of English, the more successful you are likely to be on your course.

By joining a course at St Andrew's you are committing yourself to continuous study of English, including during holiday breaks. Any break in studying English will result in a decrease in your level of English and IELTS score, which will take time to rectify. This means all students should take English classes over the summer break. The aim of the summer break should be to maintain or improve your IELTS score. Failure to do so will make the following academic year more difficult.

IELTS is a language test. Therefore, you need to focus on two things to get a high IELTS score

1. Achieving a high level of General English (including grammar and vocabulary).
2. IELTS exam skills and strategies.

You should arrive with the first, so that you can focus on developing skills and strategies for the test in your IELTS classes during the academic year. Students who arrive with a lower level of General English will find their IELTS studies more difficult, because they will have to focus on both at the same time.

During the academic year, your IELTS/ English progression will consist of the following 7 things which, if successfully completed, will enable you to make good progress:

1. Classes (You should attend, and fully participate in, all classes on your timetable as well as any additional classes arranged to support your progress)
2. Homework (Your teacher will set homework each lesson to prepare for future lessons or to practise what has been covered in lessons. All homework must be completed on time.)
3. Self-study (You should use self-study apps, books and websites recommended by your teacher on a regular basis.)



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4. Testing (You should attend practice tests every half term so that we can monitor your progress and give you the support you need.)
5. Additional Support (You should complete additional work and attend additional lessons provided by the college to help you make progress)
6. Immersion in English (You should read, listen to, speak and write English as much as possible in your everyday life. This includes speaking in English in all your lessons.)
7. Effective Communication (You should check your college emails at least once a day and respond to emails from your IELTS teacher.)

### IELTS Classes

Any student who doesn't have an IELTS certificate that meets university IELTS requirements which will be valid when they start university must take IELTS classes.

If you study over the summer and take an IELTS test by September, you won't need to take IELTS classes if your score is high enough to meet university IELTS requirements.

The number of IELTS classes you will take depends on your level.

- If you have an IELTS score of 6.0+ with 6.0+ in each part of the test, you will have 3 hours of IELTS classes a week.
- If your overall score or score in any part of the test is below 6.0, you will have 6 hours of IELTS classes a week.

### Official IELTS Tests

- If you have taken an IELTS test, you must bring your certificate to college at registration in September.
- All students must book a UKVI Academic IELTS test.
- You should take an IELTS test at the end of term, when your score is likely to be higher, not after a holiday break
- Mrs Leanna Brierley can help you book your IELTS test. If you book it yourself, you must let your IELTS teacher and Mrs Leanna Brierley know that you have done so and give us a copy of your certificate when you receive it.

All final-year students should take an IELTS test in December. This is because:

- If you meet your IELTS requirements then, you will have more time to focus on your other subjects for the rest of the academic year.
- If you don't meet your IELTS requirements then, you will have time to prepare for another test in March.



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**University IELTS Requirements**

You must check the IELTS requirements of the courses/universities you apply for before you make your applications.

If you apply for a course that requires an IELTS score of more than one band higher than you have at the start of your final year, you may need to take a pre-sessional English course at university in the summer, unless you put in a significant amount of work over the academic year.

You must inform Mrs Leanna Brierley of which courses/universities you apply for when you make the applications.

**Next review: September 2024**