GOALS

Students should show that they are ready to pursue an undergraduate degree in English by demonstrating their ability to understand and produce both the written and spoken language at B1 (Intermediate-level) level or above.

PLAN

The examination will consist of two parts:

1) The written paper: Candidates will be required to read a text of approximately 400 words and respond to it by writing a short (1 – 2 page) essay. The essay should show that the candidate has understood the text, can identify the main issues raised by it and express and support a point of view on those issues.

2) Oral: Candidates who score 8 or higher on the written paper will be asked to take an oral examination to assess their fluency in spoken English.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SELF-STUDY:

Candidates may find the following useful in preparing for the examination:

Levels B1 (and above) are defined by the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages as follows:

B1: Can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. Can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. Can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

B2: Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

C1: Can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. Can express him/herself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. Can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. Can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors and cohesive devices.

C2: Can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. Can summarise information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. Can express him/herself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in the most complex situations.