### Syllabus

| **Listening** | Skills: the importance of prediction; listening for detail; listening to an audio file and identifying the speakers; listening for the main points (e.g. in a lecture); inference  
Topics: diet and health; finding accommodation; numbers and names; a talk on listening; mummification; ecology; the giant squid |
| **Speaking** | Skills: the importance of speaking out in an academic context; strategies for fluency; accuracy in speaking; giving a short talk; expressing and backing up opinions  
Topics: social questions typically found in a speaking test; questions of general interest; an influential book; an invention |
| **Reading** | Skills: defining the reason for reading; skimming for gist; scanning for specific information; topic sentences; identifying the main arguments in a text; summarising  
Topics: different text types; an index; guide to report writing; genetics and cloning; rats; safety in banking; equine physiology |
| **Writing** | Skills: analysing an assignment question; structure of a text; planning an essay; separating main and supporting points; linking ideas; practice in writing essays  
Topics: vivisection; water conservation; corporate responsibility; the concept of progress; historical apologies; GM crops |
| **Grammar** | Skills: understanding grammatical terminology; the passive in academic writing; modality in academic texts; the language of cause and effect  
Topics: grammar test; cryonics; extracts from texts; student counselling; the effects of smoking |
| **Vocabulary** | Skills: using context to guess meaning; ignoring unknown words; dictionary work; use of synonyms and near synonyms; strategies for vocabulary building  
Topics: genetics; feeding habits of the orang-utan; racial awareness in children; extracts from academic texts / websites |
| **Research** | Skills: where and how to find information on the Web; criteria for evaluating websites; parts of a source book; note-taking strategies; the Cornell system of note-taking  
Topics: libraries vs the Web; search engines; the Cornell system |
| **Visuals** | Skills: understanding the purpose of visuals; choosing the correct visual; using appropriate tenses to describe visuals; interpreting charts and tables, and explaining the interpretation  
Topics: trees in Great Britain; stock price fluctuations; the decline of Atlantic cod numbers; psychological problems in males; data storage |