

# Developing subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE English Language) (Level 5)

# **Module specification**

Version 1.0 (31 March 2015)

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<u>Version history</u>					
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Version number	Date modi	of ification	Change author	Modifications made	
1.0	31/3,	/2015	emCETT	Original version submitted to the Education and Training Foundation	

# Rationale

**Unit title** 

Developing subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE English Language)

#### Introduction

This module was commissioned in 2015 by the Education and Training Foundation to increase capacity in the education and training workforce to deliver GCSE English Language, with the potential to be developed longer-term into a Level 5 module to sit within the Diploma of Education & Training.

The module in particular supports practitioners working with young adults (16 - 19) who are retaking GCSE English Language, having failed to achieve the grade they needed at school. This is why there is an emphasis in this rationale on engaging and motivating reluctant learners and assessment of learners' needs in order to build on prior learning.

### **Background**

The Government introduced 16-19 study programmes in August 2013, following the Review of Vocational Education (Wolf, 2011) and in response to OECD survey results. A core principle of 16-19 study programmes is that learners who have not achieved a GCSE grade A\* to C in English and/or maths at school must continue to work towards achieving these qualifications, or an approved 'stepping stone' towards GCSE. From August 2014, this became a condition of learner places being funded.

In 2012-13, of the learners not achieving grades A\* to C at school nearly half did not go on to retake these qualifications and only 6.5% (English) and 7.0% (maths) achieved GCSE A\* to C at 16-18. The data suggests that FE Colleges can expect about five times as many learners to be taking GCSE re-sits in 2015-16 compared with the 2012-13 level (DfE, 2014).

This increased demand for GCSE maths and English has created a significant challenge for providers in the post-16 education and training sector. Ofsted recently highlighted the need to improve the capacity and quality of teaching in maths and English. "Too much teaching in English and mathematics is not good enough. Despite all of the incentives available, there is a shortage of good teachers of English and, in particular, mathematics". (Ofsted, 2014).

This module will help to address the shortage of good teachers of English in the education and training sector. As part of an ITE programme, it will ensure that new entrants to the profession have the skills to support learners re-sitting GCSE English Language. It has also been designed so that it could be used as a stand-alone CPD module for practitioners.

Thompson (2014, p43) points out that even if developing subject-specific pedagogical knowledge through discrete provision for the subject is the most effective approach, low recruitment and funding levels have affected the viability of specialist Diplomas. Viable groups could be created by delivering the module to mixed groups of ITE and CPD trainees.

# Methodology

The layout of the module specification was based on existing subject specialist modules for English: literacy (LSIS, 2013) with some notable additions. Some indicative content for the module is included and the assessment criteria are referenced to the Professional Standards (Education and

Training Foundation, 2014). We have also included a suggested list of resources.

The module was reviewed by an expert panel and modifications were made based on their feedback. Two pilot sessions for the module were trialled with both ITE and CPD learners. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. There was an obvious appetite for the materials to be available for use in CPD sessions, for the full course to be available and an accreditation option to be created.

# Curriculum knowledge

The module supports the 2015 GCSE English Language specifications (DfE, 2013) and includes minor additional content for trainees working on the 'old' GCSE English (Language) assessments (finishing in June/ November 2016).

Practitioners will need to be flexible in their planning to meet the diverse needs of their learners and the module addresses this and prepares practitioners toward this end. This may include planning an effective teaching/study programme which is radically different from the traditional approach adopted in a conventional Scheme of Work. The new GCSE will require a more holistic approach to the subject. Practitioners will also need to have confidence in their subject knowledge to respond to the diverse needs of the learners.

# Subject content knowledge

We expect that trainees taking this module may have different levels of subject content knowledge. If this module is used in an ITE programme, trainees should have demonstrated that their personal English skills are at least at level 3 but there may still be some topics that require further development.

According to a Strategic Consultation into English and Maths (CUREE and emCETT, 2014) "The majority of English...teachers possess subject qualifications which are at least one level above the respective level they teach." However, 29% of those teaching English in the Education and Training Sector have Level 2 as their highest qualification (Frontier Economics, 2014, p.15). It is noteworthy, too, that 6% of teachers currently teaching GCSE English in the education and training sector possess only GCSE or Level 2 subject qualifications. As such, and for those who need to develop GCSE English pedagogical skills we recommend course applicants undertake assessment tasks prior to enrolling. The 'Entry assessments for English (Literacy/ESOL) Teacher Training' may be used, (QIA 2008). Note, however, that unlike the 'Maths Pipeline' self-assessment, there is no current tool to assess people's abilities to teach English GCSE using effective pedagogies. There is, however, a short English Enhancement Programme (EEP) self-assessment checklist which may be useful and this can be found in Appendix 2 at the end of this booklet.

If required, prior to embarking on a Level 5 in Developing subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE English Language), we recommend that potential trainees access personal skills development programmes, such as the Level 3 'Award in English for Literacy and Language Teaching'. We also recommend that participants develop a personal development plan, so that subject content knowledge can be developed in parallel.

# Subject-specific pedagogy

Compared to mathematics, there are fewer recently-published reports about effective pedagogies for teaching English to post-16 learners and very little evidence relating to effective approaches for

teaching GCSE English Language in the education and training sector. According to the Foundation's 2014 Strategic Consultation report, English teachers "feel more confident in combining systematic writing instruction with extended experience, but less ..in helping learners respond to literature" (CUREE and emCETT, 2014, p.17).<sup>1</sup>

In a literature review carried out to inform the Strategic Consultation report (undertaken by CUREE and emCETT for the Foundation, 2014), it was noted that effective practice in literacy, which we can apply in many respects to teaching GCSE English, "occurs where teachers build on learners' experience, encourage fluent oral reading, use reciprocal teaching and explicit comprehension strategies and adequate time is allowed for active reading in class." The consultation team also reviewed evidence from the schools sector in relation to English teaching and found that successful English programmes were characterised by "a less heavily teacher-directed style of teaching and learning, with such features as flexible teaching; responding to students' needs as the lesson develops; students given time to think, plan, discuss and test out ideas; using questions to extend thinking skills; and developing independent learning through problem solving."

# Motivating and inspiring reluctant learners

The literature review that informed the Strategic Consultation Report (CUREE and emCETT, 2014) highlighted that "knowing rules and practising their application is not enough to equip learners with the skills and understanding required for advancement and success. In both domains (English and mathematics), researchers have identified affective elements such as motivation and persistence as important aspects of post 16 learning. Structured dialogue, thinking about the processes and understanding the underlying principles are also common features of the research in both domains. The implications for teaching seem to lie in the areas of flexibility (letting go of the lesson plan and starting where the learners are if necessary); devising rich tasks for structured discussion, having high expectations and providing frequent, formative feedback. Confident subject knowledge is a key element of effective teaching in both domains."

The use of learning technology is of particular importance in the delivery of GCSE English language to young adults. This is partly because it can be used to validate and build on the literacy practices that they bring with them and this can lead to much greater learner engagement. In addition, it opens up more opportunities for personal study and revision through blended learning, which are vital given the current level of contact hours, the weight of syllabus content, learners' starting points, etc.

Learning also needs to be fun, interactive and practical. "Learners are most likely to have positive attitudes towards maths and English if they enjoy the subjects, find them interesting and can see their progress" (Robey and Jones, 2105). This points to the importance of planning a scheme of work that uses topical, often multi- modal, materials such as song lyrics by popular artists. Such materials are likely to engage 16-19 learners as the basis for early language study activities before they look at more unfamiliar genres. The first few weeks of learning in particular need to focus on getting to know the learners, their interests, goals and their values (which will often differ from their teacher's) and using material that they can relate to as part of the re-engagement and confidence-building

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This is also the anecdotal experience of the authors who have been training on EEP pathways 4 and 5 and acting as regional English Leads (East Midlands and West Midlands). We are seeing many Functional Skills teachers undertaking initial training to teach GCSE English, who have limited knowledge of language and are not confident about teaching learners how to analyse literary texts.

process.

The modules will emphasise the importance of fostering a supportive environment in the classroom, including encouraging collaboration and peer support, to build confidence and self-esteem. "Embarrassment can be a strong factor in learners not asking for support when they need it. A supportive environment should be fostered in the classroom and learners should be encouraged to ask for help" (Robey and Jones, 2015).

Lack of motivation and large class sizes can lead to behaviour management issues. Many of the strategies discussed in this module will contribute to behaviour management but we would also expect behaviour management strategies to be covered elsewhere in an ITE programme.

#### Assessment

The literature emphasises the importance of initial and diagnostic assessment to enable practitioners to build on the knowledge and understanding that learners already have and adapt teaching to accommodate individual learning needs. Using the learners' prior skills, knowledge, interests and experience and a detailed knowledge of the syllabus and examination questions will enable the tutors to develop a bespoke scheme of work which will maximise opportunities for engagement and ultimate success.

"Learners need timely initial assessments to identify support needs and for any additional support they require to be put in place as soon as possible. Any delay in either of these processes impacts on the time learners have to achieve" (Robey and Jones, 2105).

However, we need to be creative in the use of initial and diagnostic assessment as it might not be productive to give reluctant learners another 'test' as an introduction to the course. "Some models of assessment include testing prior to the commencement of courses; pre-course testing can, however, be off-putting to learners" (The Research Base, 2014).

Practitioners need to be able to use other methods to find strengths and areas for development, including actively involving learners in the process of assessment and target setting.

There will be an element of preparation for summative assessment but this does not need to be in the form of 'teaching to the test'.

#### Research

The modules will encourage trainees to explore research into effective practice in teaching English and mathematics in England and other countries. "The review of international practices demonstrates that no one single approach is appropriate for learners; approaches must be combined and tailored according to the specific needs of the learners being taught. There are, however, approaches that could be adapted to, and useful for, the UK context" (The Research Base, 2014).

Trainees will also be encouraged to use practitioner research (including working with other professionals) to develop their practice. "Practitioner research is an effective way to gather learner voice to inform future work and delivery. It can enable practitioners to gain a deeper understanding of learners' individual needs, allowing them to tailor support and learning programmes accordingly" (Robey and Jones, 2015).

If this module is being taken as part of an ITE programme it may be useful to recommend that trainees also take the optional 'Action Research' module or the 'Action learning to support

development of subject specific pedagogy' module which would allow them to apply learning from this module.

#### References

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# Foundation. [available at

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Additional Information	
Unit title	Developing subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE English Language)
Credit level	5
Credit value	15
Purpose and aim(s) of the unit	<ul> <li>This unit aims to support trainees in developing the subject knowledge and subject-specific pedagogy required to support learners who have not achieved a good pass in GCSE English Language at school. Trainees will: <ul> <li>analyse factors that might disengage GCSE learners and will explore strategies for motivating and inspiring them;</li> <li>evaluate and use approaches to initial and diagnostic assessment which actively involve learners in the process of assessment and target setting;</li> <li>plan effective learning programmes for GCSE English Language courses;</li> <li>develop their knowledge and abilities to carry out effective GCSE English Language teaching;</li> <li>use a range of assessment for learning strategies and adapt teaching to meet the needs of individual learners; and</li> <li>reflect on their practice and identify ways (including the use of research) to improve it.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Unit available from	research to improve it.
Unit review date	
Details of the relationship	This unit is underpinned by the Professional Standards for Teachers
between the unit and relevant national occupational standards or other professional standards or curricula (if appropriate)	and Trainers in Education and Training – England.
Guidance for developing	N/A
assessment arrangements for the unit (if appropriate)	
Additional assessment requirements specified by a sector or regulatory body (if appropriate)	None
Support for the unit by a sector or other appropriate body (if required)	The Education and Training Foundation.
Location of the unit within	13. Education and training
the subject/sector	13.1 Teaching and lecturing
classification system	
Name of the organisation submitting the unit	The Education and Training Foundation.
Availability for use	Shared
Guided Learning Hours	40

Unit title	Deve	loping subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE Engli	sh Language)		
Learning outcomes					
The trainee will	The ti	Professional Standards			
1. Be able to engage	1.1	Identify positive methodologies to (re-)engage	5, 6, 11, 14,		
and inspire		learners who are re-sitting GCSE English.	16		
reluctant	Indica	ative content	10		
learners.		ging GCSE English learners including a critical			
	•	understanding of Dweck's research on fixed & growth			
	mindsets & 'learner resilience'; identifying and avoiding				
		ition of approaches which were previously			
	1 .	ccessful; relevance and importance of current English			
	1	to vocational, academic and career goals; helping			
	1	ers to identify and make continual, concrete links to			
	these throughout the course (signposting the skill being				
	learn	ed).			
	1.2	Evaluate and select approaches for engaging,	1, 6, 13, 16		
		retaining and inspiring reluctant learners.			
	Indica	ative content			
	Strate	egies for motivating and inspiring reluctant learners			
	including, motivational dialogue; building on prior				
	knowledge; personalising learning; access to timely support;				
	peer	support approaches; relate learning/texts to learners'			
	exper	experiences; active learning; digital approaches; scaffolding;			
	provi				
	practise skills remotely; building confidence to ask and				
	answ	er questions in class.			
2. Be able to use	2.1	Analyse approaches to initial and diagnostic	9, 13		
assessment		assessment for GCSE English and tracking progress.			
approaches to	Indica				
support GCSE	Evalu				
English Language	forma				
learning.		GCSE re-sit cohort as an essential start to tracking learning			
	and creating differentiated, responsive approaches; analysi				
	1	of learner writing; English (and maths) cross-organisational assessment processes; including learner self-assessment to target skills development for GCSE.			
	2.2	Actively involve learners in assessment and target	17		
	2.2	setting processes.	17		
	Indica	ative content			
	1	Acknowledging and building on the knowledge that learners already have; use of ILPs; use of a range of target- setting techniques; marking strategies; individual reviews of learning; setting own learning targets based on formative feedback.			
	1				
	1				
	1				
	2.3	Use a range of 'assessment for learning' strategies	4, 9, 18		
	5	to build on the knowledge and understanding that	1, 3, 10		
		learners already have and adapt teaching to			
		accommodate individual learning needs.			

	I		I		
		tive content			
		sment for Learning; effective questioning techniques;			
		peer assessment; activating prior knowledge; Petty's			
	'meda	al and mission' approach to feedback.			
	2.4	Prepare learners for summative assessment.	18		
	Indica	tive content			
	Active	e revision techniques, past papers and how to use them			
	innov	atively; mock exams, marking criteria; utilising			
	Exam				
	conce				
	quest				
	quest	ions (weighting of marks).			
3. Be able to plan	3.1	Create medium and long-term plans to meet GCSE	14		
teaching and		English curriculum and assessment requirements.			
learning to meet	Indica	itive content			
GCSE English	Know	ledge of the GCSE English Language curriculum; the			
Language	1	tance of 'spaced rehearsal' and 'interleaving'/			
curriculum	1 -	ration of skills when planning a GCSE Scheme of Work			
requirements and	_	; SOWs including assessment tasks such as mock			
the needs of	exam				
individual	3.2	Plan learning to meet the individual needs of	1, 9, 16		
learners.		learners, including SEND accessibility and inclusion.	_, _, _,		
	Indica	ative content			
	Plann				
	differ				
	1				
	1	ology and accessibility tools; indicators of dyslexia and o teach learners with specific learning difficulties.			
	3.3	Identify how to develop learners' motivation and	3, 4, 9, 13		
		confidence through active, personalised learning.	3, 1, 3, 13		
	Indica	ative content			
		Active learning; linking to learners' interests/ experiences,			
		drivers and values and main vocational subjects/quals;			
	1				
	1	orative problem solving; use of technology to engage ers by building on their digital literacy practices; jigsaw			
	1				
	1	reading strategies; proformas for written work; reciprocal teaching.			
4. Be able to	4.1	Support learners to analyse non-fiction texts.	4, 16		
develop reading,		ntive content	.,		
writing, and		sing linguistic, presentational and structural features of			
spoken language	texts				
skills for GCSE	infere				
English Language.	suppo				
	1				
	4.2	and support their analysis of the text.  Support learners to analyse literary texts.	4, 16		
		ntive content	, , _ 0		
	1	rstanding characterisation; themes; voice; structure; age; literary devices; inference; terminology;			
	_	hology; how to support learners to write coherent and			
		ive essays that state and support their analysis of the			
	1	use of strategies like EPEE & PEE(E), PQ4R; use of			
	1	ic organisers.			
	P. abii		<u> </u>		

	1		1		
	4.3	Support learners to study spoken language.	4, 16		
		tive content			
	Social	attitudes to spoken language; 'standard' and 'non-			
	stand	ard' English; paralinguistic and prosodic features;			
	inference; varieties; dialect/ idiolect; gender, power and				
	sociolect; accent, spoken genres, multimodal talk (e.g. in				
	online	e chat rooms and instant messaging).			
	4.4	Support learners to develop their spoken language	4, 16		
		and listening skills.			
	Indica				
	Suppo				
	to the	ir own spoken language skills; modelling the use of			
	'stanc	lard English'; developing spoken presentation skills			
	including leading and participating in discussions;				
	respo	nsiveness to audience and audience questions; critical			
	aware	eness of language varieties and social conventions;			
	impor	tance of using integrated approaches.			
	4.5	Support learners to write non-fiction texts.	4, 16		
	4.6	Support learners to write creatively.	4, 16		
	Indica	tive content (4.5 and 4.6)			
	Developing writing abilities; planning; structure; language;				
	style;	style; form; use of images and video to stimulate writing;			
	writing for different purposes and audiences; 'reading like a				
	writer	'; genre approaches to teaching writing; the			
	importance of shared reading, modelling, writing frames,				
	etc.; proofreading for accuracy (spelling, punctuation and				
	gramı	mar) and coherent and cohesive writing.			
5. Use or undertake	5.1	Identify and evaluate research into effective	8		
research to		practice in teaching GCSE English.			
develop and	Indica	tive content			
improve own	Aware				
practice in GCSE	metho				
English teaching.	5.2	Use research to help develop own knowledge and	9		
		practice.			
	Indica				
	Linkin				
	Profes	ssional Development Plan			
	5.3	Work with other professionals to jointly develop practice.	6, 10, 20		
	Indica	ntive content			
		porative research; joint practice development; action			
	1	ng; peer observation and peer coaching; use of social			
		n for Personal Learning Networks (PLN).			
	Incuit	Tion i croonar Learning rectworks (i Liv).			

# Resources

#### **Unit title**

Developing subject pedagogy and understanding (GCSE English Language)

#### **Books**

Barton, G. (2013) Don't Call it Literacy!: What every teacher needs to know about speaking, listening, reading and writing. London: Routledge

Black, P. & Wiliam, D. (2004) Working Inside the Black Box: Assessment for Learning in the Classroom. London: Kings College.

Brown, P., Roediger, H.L. and McDaniel, M. (2014) *Make it Stick: the science of successful learning.*Harvard University Press

Bynner, J. & Parsons, S. (2008) Illuminating Disadvantage. London: NRDC.

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### **Research reports**

Casey, H., Cara, O., Eldred, J., Grief, S., Hodge., Ivanic, R., Jupp, T., Lopez, D. & McNeil, B. (2006) "You wouldn't expect a maths teacher to teach plastering...": Embedding literacy, language and numeracy in post-16 vocational programmes – the impact on learning and achievement. London: NRDC. [available at http://www.nrdc.org.uk/publications\_details.asp?ID=73].

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#### **Useful** websites

Dylan Wiliam's website

http://www.dylanwiliam.org/Dylan Wiliams website/Welcome.html

Dylan Wiliam Center

http://www.dylanwiliamcenter.com/webinar-embedding-formative-assessment-into-classroom-practice/

**Excellence Gateway** 

http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk

Geoff Barton website

www.geoffbarton.co.uk

and

http://blog.geoffbarton.co.uk/site/Blog/Blog.html

ITE English

http://www.ite.org.uk/

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education

http://www.niace.org.uk

National Foundation for Educational Research

http://www.nfer.ac.uk

The National Research and Development Centre for adult literacy and numeracy

http://www.nrdc.org.uk

NATE (National Association of Teachers of English)

http://www.nate.org.uk

Research and Practice in Adult Literacies (RaPAL)

http://rapal.org.uk

**TES Connect** 

https://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resources

Andrew Moore's teaching resource site

www.universalteacher.org.uk

# **Appendix 1**

# The development team

The Education and Training Foundation commissioned the East Midlands Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (emCETT) to develop the content for this module. Members of the emCETT team involved in the project were –

English Design Lead Claire Collins

English Co-designer Catriona Mowat

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<u>Project Director</u> Ian Grayling

<u>Project Manager</u> Joss Kang

Project Administrator Joanne Byrne

# **Appendix 2**

# English Enhancement Programme (EEP) self-assessment checklist



# **English Enhancement Programme**

**AUDIT** 

If you are not sure whether to apply for a Teacher Trainer or a Direct Delivery pathway the following audit may help you identify your needs regarding GCSE English language.

Consider the following statements, and tick box A, B or C to best describe your situation where A equals always, B means sometimes and C means never.

		A Always	B Sometimes	C Never
Experi	ence of teacher training			
1.	You enjoy training and supporting other teachers			
Knowl	edge of English language			
2.	You are aware of basic grammar definitions such as concrete and abstract nouns, pronouns, modal verbs and complex sentences			
3.	You have recently been able to answer a range of questions on grammar			
4.	You are confident at teaching English functional skills			
5.	You are aware of the major differences between functional English and GCSE English			
Knowl	edge of literary genres			
6.	You are confident of identifying bias in a text			
7.	You are aware of many of the ways a writer uses techniques to affect a reader			
8.	You understand inference and the effect on the reader			
9.	You read a range of fiction and non - fiction texts on a regular basis			
10.	You are aware of a range of literary genres and their characteristics			
11.	You can identify the attitude or point of view of the writer			
12.	You can show how a writer uses techniques to focus a reader's attention on issues or characters			
Knowl	edge of English GCSE			
13.	You have taught GCSE English in the last two years			
14.	You know what GCSE English examiners are looking for in most questions			
15.	You are able to assess students' written work using GCSE assessment criteria			
Experi	enced in English and literacy pedagogies			
16.	You can use a range of lesson activities to engage disaffected students			
17.	You are confident you have more than one way of answering a student's question			

Mostly As and Bs? Then consider a Train the trainer pathway -1, 2 or 3.

Mostly Bs and Cs? Have a look at the direct delivery courses, pathways 4 or 5 to see which one best meets your needs.