

CAMBRIDGE IGCSE

English as a Second Language 0510

Syllabus Overview

Examinations 2027, 2028 and 2029

Understanding the whole syllabus

Language learning combines understanding messages with expressing your own meaning. Vocabulary and grammar support communication in the situations described by the syllabus. The skills need regular contact with meaningful language; memorising isolated word lists alone does not develop comprehension or a clear response.

For English as a Second Language 0510, the content map below follows the approved subject briefing and the official syllabus. Labels group related areas for orientation; the detailed syllabus remains the authority for individual learning requirements.

Content map

Syllabus area or component	What the area covers
Four language skills	Throughout the course, you will develop four connected language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.
Reading and writing for a purpose	You will read a variety of practical and contemporary texts, identify relevant details, understand opinions and recognise meanings that are implied rather than directly stated. In writing, you will learn to communicate clearly, organise ideas coherently and adapt your vocabulary, style and register for different purposes and audiences.
Listening and spoken interaction	Listening activities include conversations, interviews and longer spoken texts. Speaking practice develops your ability to express and extend ideas, maintain a discussion and communicate with clear pronunciation and intonation.

These areas should be read as a connected course. Begin with the foundational knowledge identified in the first part of the map, then build towards the applications and explanations that depend on it. Short, regular contact with the language is more useful than occasional cramming. Link new vocabulary to a meaningful sentence, and use feedback to improve recurring grammar and comprehension difficulties. Where a row describes a choice of topics or components, study the selection required by your agreed route rather than treating all alternatives as compulsory.

Qualification and component choices

All candidates follow the component structure shown in the Assessment Overview. There is no separate Core/Extended route in this syllabus.

The speaking result is reported as a separate endorsement, graded 1-5. It is not included in the A*-G qualification grade; that is a different arrangement from 0511.

The assessed skills

Assessment objectives describe the abilities Cambridge looks for across the qualification. The following explanations paraphrase the syllabus objectives; they are not additional topics or separate orientation tasks.

Assessment objective	Meaning for the learner
AO1 Reading	Understand the main message and select or interpret relevant information from the prescribed kinds of text.
AO2 Writing	Produce clear, organised language suited to the task, with the required vocabulary and grammatical control.
AO3 Listening	Identify main points, relevant detail and attitudes in the spoken material specified for this syllabus.
AO4 Speaking	Communicate clearly, develop relevant responses and maintain interaction with suitable vocabulary and pronunciation.

These abilities work together in an answer. Accurate knowledge supports application, while a clear explanation shows how the evidence or method leads to a conclusion. The balance varies by component, so the next lesson connects these abilities with the actual assessment formats.

Key pointers: Follow the stated examination-year syllabus, cover the required areas for your route and develop skills alongside knowledge. **Next:** Open **Assessment Overview**.