



## Class contents and exam requirements

### English Language

(first language, second year)

**Code 30129, Learning Path 3**

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<b>ENGLISH AS FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE</b>
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The course is aimed at students who have enrolled in a degree course taught in English and who have chosen English as their first foreign language and runs over two years. The course is for students who begin with an intermediate (B2 level) knowledge of the language and the exit level is set at C1 level (advanced) after two years' study.

The second year of the course ends in an exam which, once passed, gives the student three credits and which grade forms part of the overall final degree grade average.

The course is also open to students enrolled in a degree course taught in Italian who are already at intermediate level<sup>1</sup> and make a specific application<sup>2</sup>.

*Please remind that the class group is run if the minimum number of applicants is reached.*

<b>Second year course – Path 3</b>
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### Program

The aim of the course is to help students to:

- further develop their skills in using English at an advanced level.
- Improve their ability to express a complex issue in a clear and well-organised way, sufficiently expanding on points of view with supporting arguments, information and pertinent examples
- Expand their capacity to write professional correspondence to develop a theme in a systematic way, highlighting the main points and any supporting information
- Write concise and accurate summaries
- Increase their vocabulary and range of useful expressions.

The program covers all units in the set textbook "*Innovations Advanced*".

In addition to the classroom teaching students are also required to complete a self-study program. The activities in this need to be carried out in conjunction with the class work (up to five hours per week) in order to constantly reinforce the lessons learnt and prepare correctly for the exam. Students who actively participate in the course by attending at least 70% of the lessons and completing on time the self-study program will be awarded two- thirtieths to their final exam grade (See "Concluding info", p. 6).

Issues and Subjects	Language content	Self-study program
Unit 1 <b>Describing people</b>	Emphasising Using vocabulary Collocations	
Unit 2 <b>Work</b>	An introduction Describing the work environment	An introduction
Unit 4 <b>The law</b>	Modal verbs (using should) and dealing lawyers	Job application letters and CVs Description of courses and university profile ing-clauses
Unit 6 <b>Disasters</b>	Word building	Putting your point of view Structuring your ideas Debating and discussion Writing your
Unit 7 <b>Hair and beauty</b>	Auxiliaries Vocabulary	
Unit 8 <b>Politics and elections</b>	Describing changes and trends Cause or result	Introduction to essays
Unit 9 <b>Weather and environment</b>	Conditional forms Similes	

<sup>1</sup> The linguistic requirements correspond to those needed to access degree courses taught in English and can be found at [www.unibocconi.it/ammissioni](http://www.unibocconi.it/ammissioni).

<sup>2</sup> Information about the timetable and the documents for the application are available at [www.unibocconi.it/centrolinguistico](http://www.unibocconi.it/centrolinguistico) at the beginning of the first semester.

Unit 11 <b>Relationships</b>	Must might can't Having an argument	
Unit 12 <b>Economics and finance</b>	Voicing opinions Talking about the quality of life	Writing Anecdotes and stories Ways of doing things
Unit 13 <b>Books, films and music</b>	Subjunctive and unreal conditional forms Keeping options open	Describing films and scenes from films
Unit 14 <b>War and peace</b>	Commenting visual data Interpreting research data Describing numbers	Describing visual information
Unit 16 <b>Health and Medicine</b>	Adjectival clauses Adverb modifiers	Book views
Unit 17 <b>Humour</b>	Telling jokes Talking about comedy	
Unit 18 <b>Crime</b>	Talking about crime passives Giving advice and clarifying	Giving instructions and advice
Unit 19 <b>Sport and fitness</b>	Expressing degrees of certainty Talking about sports and fitness	
Unit 20 <b>Belief</b>	Talking about religion Practising your faith	Making requests and enquiries Stating your purpose
Unit 22 <b>Youth and experience</b>	Describing people at different ages	Writing reports Paragraphing and topic/key sentences
Unit 23 <b>Taboos and embarrassing situations</b>	Loan words Awkward situations	

Further details about the self-study program will be provided in class by the teacher.

#### Set Textbook

- AA.VV., *Innovations Advanced. A course in natural English*, Thomson Heinle.
- Materials provided by the teacher in class

#### Second year exam

Knowledge is assessed by one of the following methods, among which students can choose:

- international certification from among those recognized by the University (see [www.unibocconi.eu](http://www.unibocconi.eu) > [Language Center](#) > [Language Certificates](#) ), or
- Bocconi exam, which corresponds, like international certificates, to the Common European Framework standards.

Students cannot sit the second year exam unless they have passed the first year one (code 30123).

The exam consists of a **written paper** and an **oral exam**. Both need to be passed for the grade to count towards the final average.

In order to take the oral exam, it is necessary to:

- pass the written exam (minimum mark 18/30)
- have a test score that hasn't expired, i.e. that is still valid (see **Written Exam, Validity**)

Students can choose to retake the written exam before the taking the oral exam but must remember that handing in their paper annuls any previous grade given. Students must enrol for all exams via the Punto Blu.

**Written exam**Dictionaries are not allowed.

Duration of exam: 150 minutes from the end of the listening.

1. Writing a text in a specified format using information heard in a recorded piece (*listening to writing*).

At the start of the exam students are given papers containing precise instructions as follows:

- Contextual information which places the contents of the listening passage in a situation which the candidates must simulate finding themselves in
- Information about the writing task to be completed and its purpose
- Format and length of text to be produced.

A recorded passage in the foreign language (lasting about 6-8 minutes) will be played. The piece will contain descriptive information read at a natural speed but not especially quickly.

The recording will be played twice with an approximate two minute interval between each listening.

2. Writing a text in a specified format using information contained in a paper (*reading to writing*). Students are given a paper from which they must extract a series of information in order to write a given task. Instructions will contain:

- Contextual information which places the contents of the listening passage in a situation which the candidates must simulate finding themselves in
- Information about the writing task to be completed and its purpose
- Format and length of text to be produced.

The objective of the exam is to evaluate students' capacity to extract information from listening to recorded passages and reading texts, reorganise it selectively in an autonomous and properly structured way, and produce a written task. Especial attention will be given when marking to the effectiveness of the syntax and the appropriateness of style, the range of vocabulary used and the extent to which the paper written meets the requirements of the simulated situation as given. Grammatical accuracy is taken for granted; inadequate knowledge of standard grammar will irredeemably compromise the outcome of the exam.

In particular, the following areas will be assessed:

- Effective communication
- Accurate reporting of information contained in the written and spoken pieces
- Coherence and structure of the written tasks
- Appropriate style
- Addressing the task
- Knowledge of specialised vocabulary
- Complexity and accuracy of language.

*Description of exam*

<b>First part: <i>listening to writing</i></b>		
Input	Listening to a passage containing descriptions, information, opinions: natural speech, possibly with background noise.	
Objective	Checking candidates': - Comprehension of a spoken text - Ability to write a text using information extracted from the listening, reworking it according to instructions and elaborating on it with personal views.	
Exam	Writing of a brief report (letter, essay, article...)	<b>10/30</b>
<b>Second part: <i>reading to writing</i></b>		
Input	Reading one or more authentic texts	
Objective	Checking candidates': - Ability to write an appropriate text for the task given - Ability to reorganise and elaborate on the information extracted from the passages provided - Ability to express a personal opinion.	
Exam	Writing a report, press release, article, letter or other form of commercial correspondence.	<b>10/30</b>

<b>Third part: reading to writing</b>		
Input	Reading comprehension of one or more authentic texts.	
Objective	Checking candidates' ability to understand texts and write structured texts following the instructions given	
Exam	Writing a theme that demonstrates the ability to express their point of view through logical and factual argumentation.	<b>10/30</b>

*Validity*

The written exam is valid a limited amount of time:

- if passed by 31st May 2013, it is valid for the 3 subsequent oral exams
- if passed from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013, it is valid for the 3 subsequent oral exams, and it is also valid for the subsequent 12 months but there is a penalty that must be paid (see **Oral Exam, Validity**)

**Oral exam**

*Presentation:* oral presentation lasting 10-12 minutes, where candidates will be asked to carry out a communications task. The topic will be one taken from the ten main topic areas as contained in the course syllabus. Candidates can therefore prepare themselves for the exam by checking beforehand that they have an adequate knowledge of the terminology needed for each particular topic. Such knowledge is provided by the course itself.

Following the presentation there will be a short discussion: the examiners ask the candidate three questions about the presentation which require a detailed and complete reply. This part of the exam is aimed at assessing the student's capacity for effective dialogue, making points and supporting them.

Attention will be paid to the candidates' ability to express themselves in a correct fashion and use appropriate words and expressions. Correct grammar is a fundamental requirement for passing the exam; if this is lacking no other aspects of the candidates' abilities will be assessed. Sophisticated use of the language will be rewarded.

In particular, the following aspects will be assessed:

- Effective communication
- Appropriate style
- Addressing the task
- Knowledge of specialised vocabulary
- Complexity and accuracy of language
- Correct pronunciation and intonation.

It is indispensable that the above-mentioned items are prepared thoroughly for the oral exam and students are advised to prepare themselves well in advance of the date. Details on how to prepare for the exam are to be found on line in the library for each language (Bocconi e-learning platform) or at: [www.unibocconi.it/centrolinguistico](http://www.unibocconi.it/centrolinguistico) in *Laboratori linguistici > Materiali di autoapprendimento on-line*.

Duration of oral exam: 15 minutes.

*Description of exam*

Presentation	Carrying out the task given in the exam (10-12 minutes)
Discussion	Discussion on the topic of the presentation, led by examiners using <i>ad hoc</i> Questions.

*Validity*

The oral exam can only be taken once you have passed the written exam (see **Written Exam**). Students will be assessed in terms of their practical ability to communicate. During the oral exam marks can be added to or subtracted from the written exam result in the following way:

- by +4 or -4, if the oral exam is passed within the 3 oral exams subsequent to the written exam
- by +1 or -4, if the oral exam is passed after the first 3 subsequent oral exams, but still by 12 months subsequent to the written exam (this option is possible only for students who take the written exam after 1<sup>st</sup> June 2013).

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**Concluding info**

The assessment of language skills depends both on the result of the final exam and on marks awarded during the year.

All exam grades on or above the pass mark (minimum 18/30) can be given an extra three points by the teacher responsible for the course as follows:

- Positive participation in the course and completion of self-study activities.
- Second-year exam passed on the first time it is taken.

**Positive participation in the course and self-study program**

Following a positive participation in the course, students can be awarded two extra points by the teacher as follows:

- 1 thirtieth for attending at least 70% of the classroom lessons;
- 1 thirtieth for completing the self-study program.

Any additional points are allocated by the teacher at the end of the course depending on students' attendance and active participation as determined in class and on line in each language's Library on the Bocconi e-learning platform.

These additional points are valid for a limited period only: from June to the following December after the course has ended, including these months mentioned.

**Second-year exam passed on the first time it is taken**

In order to reward students who sit for the exam only when really prepared, an extra point will be added to the final grade if students pass both the written and oral exams the first time they are taken (minimum 18/30). Please note that the oral part has to be passed on the first date subsequent to the written exam.