



RAFFLES INSTITUTION

Year 5-6

OPEN HOUSE 2021

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LINGUISTICS (ELL)

INFOSHEET

FOR INCOMING YEAR 5 STUDENTS



Hi! Are you curious about ELL or Linguistics (as it is sometimes referred to)?

But are too afraid to ask??!! 😬

Fear not! This infosheet strives to inform you and hopefully...

...allay some of your fears. 😊

FAQs:

1. What does ELL stand for?

English Language and Linguistics (You can also call it Linguistics for short. It is not to be mixed up with English Literature which is ELit).

2. Is this a new H2 subject?

It's relatively new. It was first offered in 2009, so this would make the 2021 enrolment (class of 2022) the 13th batch! It is not offered at H1 nor H3 level.

3. How big is each cohort?

The average size is about 30-odd. Currently, we have 30 Year 6 students.

4. Who is the target student?

*It is for anyone who is **passionate** about and highly **proficient** in the use of the English Language and has the stamina for text analysis and essay-writing.*

5. Is it like English Language?

Not exactly. It is not about learning the correct use of language (it's a given that you have mastered this) but rather, it's about learning what 'correctness' actually entails (in fact, the more relevant word to use here is 'appropriateness', rather than 'correctness').

You study how language is used in various contexts to make meaning. In this course, you will be learning various linguistics tools like semantics and phonology as well as various sociolinguistics concepts like political discourse, language and gender, social attitudes towards standards etc.

*It's not all theory though. Through the study of authentic texts, you get to analyse how language is used to create meaning – both linguistic and social meanings. You'll also be discussing linguistic issues in society. In a nutshell, you learn about **language use and language variation and change**.*

6. How is it different from English Literature?

You'll analyse almost all types of spoken and written texts except literary ones. There are no set texts to focus on, but rather you will be analysing samples of authentic texts e.g. advertisements, conversations, news reports, online articles etc.

7. **How difficult is ELL?**

It is not difficult, or at least it's a worthwhile challenge to surmount, if you're passionate about linguistic issues especially those pertaining to the English Language. If you also possess the discipline to explore the subject with academic rigour, ELL can be a fun subject. It is also a highly relevant subject, not only to your academic studies but also to your future career choices. Language is undoubtedly a social construct but a very dynamic one with much social, cultural, political and economic implications and ramifications.

8. **How many papers are there?**

There are two papers:

Paper 1: Analysing Language Use

Section A – Analysis

Section B – Adaptive Writing and Commentary

Paper 2: Investigating Language Use in Society

Section A – Language Change and Variation

Section B – Language, Culture and Identity

9. **Can I opt for this subject?**

*Yes, you can opt for this subject at H2 level if you're successful in the **Placement Test**. Look out for the ELL Placement Test details.*

10. **Can Science students take this subject?**

Of course. It would be your 'contrasting' subject. We have many Science students taking ELL and they make very good ELL students.

11. **Where and when can I get further details and perhaps a taster ELL lesson?**

*If you're still interested and wish to have more information on the course requirements and the ELE Scholarship, you must view the online lecture **Introduction to ELL during the January Induction Programme (JIP)**.*

12. **Who can we contact if we have further queries about ELL?**

You may contact any of these teachers:

- Ms Audrey Tan – 64199846 or audrey.tan@ri.edu.sg
- Mrs Saul – 64199855 or mahamutha.b@ri.edu.sg



Please see below for details on MOE's ELL Syllabus & RI's Placement Test.

ELL SYLLABUS

For further information, please visit the **Singapore Examinations & Assessment Board (SEAB)** website:

https://www.seab.gov.sg/docs/default-source/national-examinations/syllabus/alevel/2019Syllabus/9508_2019.pdf

ELL PLACEMENT TEST

Please note that you can select ELL as one of your H2 subject choices only if you pass the ELL Placement Test.

- ☆ The ELL Placement Test is a 50-min test that has both MCQ and short answers components.
- ☆ Further details will be made available soon. Please check Stamford or RI (Y56) website for updates.

