



# SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Tirupattur – 635 601, Tamil Nadu, S.India

Resi : (04179) 220103

College : (04179) 220553

Fax : (04179) 226423

Ready for  
Every Good Work

A Don Bosco Institution of Higher Education, Founded in 1951 \* Affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore \* Autonomous since 1987

Accredited by NAAC (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle – under RAF) with CGPA of 3.31 / 4 at 'A+' Grade

## Introduction:

### Communicative English Classes

Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur is a seventy-three-year-old Art and Science college in Tirupattur District, located in one of the most backward rural areas of North Tamilnadu. The students who come to the college are from the surrounding villages. Though there are few English medium schools in the vicinity, generally, the students are from Tamil medium, government schools. Most students joining the college are not up to the mark in English language proficiency.

As the medium of instruction in the college is English, the students struggle to cope with their studies. To enable students to adapt to instructions in English, the college has introduced an innovative practice to enhance their English language proficiency level. This path-breaking initiative is called the Communicative English programme. The aim of the Communicative English programme is to train the students in the four basic English language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. To make English language teaching more focused and effective, homogenous groups have been formed through streaming, based on their English language proficiency.

### Method of Streaming

Due to the space crunch, the college functions in two shifts (morning and afternoon). The beneficiaries of the Communicative English programme are all first-year students of UG departments. They attend the Communicative English classes across the shifts; during their first and second semesters. A placement test is carried out at the beginning of the academic year to determine the proficiency levels of students in all four basic language skills of LSRW. Based on the scores obtained in all the four basic language skills, the students are placed in A, B, and C streams.



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## Process of Streaming

The evaluation tool for the placement test is designed, to test the proficiency levels in all four skills of a language. The weightage of marks for each skill is allotted as below:

Listening 50 marks

Speaking 80 marks

Reading 30 marks

Writing 40 marks

Based on the marks obtained in the placement test, the students are streamed into A, B, and C.

The following marks-slabs are fixed:

60 marks and above Stream "A"

40 – 59 marks Stream "B"

Below 40 marks Stream "C"

## Synopsis Writing and Viva for Stream "A"

For the students in Stream "A", there are no regular face-to-face classes. These students are given five English novels per semester with a time interval of 15 working days per novel. Each novel consists of a minimum of 200 pages. Every 15 days, these students appear for a written and oral test; they are expected to summarise the novel in writing and appear for a viva voce. Thus, advanced-level students are given some higher-order activities and are equipped with higher "K" levels.

## Regular Class, Summary Writing, and Viva for Stream "B"

For the students in Stream "B", there is one regular face-to-face class per day. These students are given three English novels per semester with a time interval of 30 working days per novel. Each novel consists of a minimum of 150 pages. Every 30 days, these students appear for a written and oral test; they are expected to



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summarise the novel in writing and appear for a viva voce. These students are also challenged with higher-order thinking and communication activities according to their proficiency levels.

## Regular Class for Stream "C"

For the students in Stream "C", there are two regular face-to-face classes per day. These students are trained in all four language skills; with a special emphasis on Listening, Speaking, and Reading.

In the regular class, they listen to and repeat the English sounds to gain the correct pronunciation; read frequently used graded vocabulary, frequently used sentences, and graded reading cards; enact situational and functional dialogues, etc.

## Some Singular Practices

All the students are expected to have 100% attendance in Communicative English classes. The students who absent themselves from Communicative English Classes, for whatsoever reasons, are expected to compensate for the loss by attending extra classes.

Group activities and activities in pairs are organized on a daily basis to make the students grow in confidence using English. They are expected to perform these activities in front of their peers; thus, removing their stage fear.

Streaming is a dynamic system. During the training period, based on the progress and performance of the students, they could move from one stream to another. The students themselves or their teachers could request a change of stream. Such students are evaluated by external staff members and based on their recommendation; the students may be moved to another stream. This helps the students to be better motivated to enhance their language skills.



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There are no end-semester examinations. Students are continuously evaluated on a daily basis. Based on their performance in English Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing the students are evaluated and marks are awarded. If students fail to achieve a particular target score, they need to appear for a test in the following semester.

Study materials for the Communicative English classes are specially prepared and designed by the PG Department of English, Sacred Heart College.

Additional Principal