

## The Vientiane College Diploma - Module Overview

### DIPEL205 The Story of the English Language

#### Overview of the module

Studying this course offers an explanation of how English has come to take its present form(s), dominate internationally today, but also look at how present trends can show how English may change into the future. Through readings, exercises, videos and other media, you will better understand the language's development against a backdrop of world events while practising critical skills to evaluate the various ideas on the subject. The subject will help to develop English language skills generally but especially with building vocabulary through a knowledge of prefixes, roots and suffixes and with a focus on common expressions such as idioms.

#### Key questions explored in the module

- What is (complex) language and how did it originate?
- What are the key events, trends and influences that have shaped contemporary English?
- Is English the 'global language' because of inherent advantages or more because of historical accident?
- How can knowledge of roots, prefixes and suffixes enhance your English vocabulary?
- What is the future of the English language?

#### Skills

This module will help you improve your English language skills with a special emphasis on:

- reading and analysing literary sources
- reading critically texts from various sources
- building vocabulary from a knowledge of roots, prefixes and suffixes
- developing understanding of common expressions such as idioms, proverbs and other sayings as well as understanding their origins

#### Performance Tasks

Throughout this module:

- gather information and ideas from a variety of sources as an active way of learning
- debate various issues arising from the material to develop critical thinking
- practise new vocabulary and expressions to expand your power of expression in English
- present material you have researched to the class to grow confidence and practice skills with public speaking

