

Section 13 English

Article 1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To develop students' communication abilities such as accurately understanding and appropriately conveying information, ideas, etc., deepening their understanding of language and culture, and fostering a positive attitude toward communication through foreign languages.

Article 2 SUBJECTS

I. Comprehensive English

1. Objective

To further enhance students' abilities such as accurately understanding and appropriately conveying information, ideas, etc. and enable them to use such abilities in their social lives, while fostering a positive attitude toward communication through the English language.

2. Contents

- (1) Pronunciation
- (2) Listening
- (3) Dialogue
- (4) Speech
- (5) Reading comprehension
- (6) Composition
- (7) Conducting research for a paper

3. Treatment of the Contents

- (1) When instructing students, reference should be made to the contents of English Communication I, English Communication II and English Communication III stated in Chapter 2, Section 8, II.-IV., and the contents of these subjects should be developed and expanded as needed.
- (2) Based on general instruction to develop basic communication abilities given in lower secondary schools, the four areas of language activities should be integrated for comprehensive learning, while incorporating appropriate language activities involving speaking and writing based on what students have heard or read.

II. English Comprehension

1. Objective

To further enhance students' abilities to accurately understand and information, ideas, etc. and deepen independent thinking, while fostering a positive attitude toward communication through the English language.

2. Contents

- (1) Pronunciation
- (2) Listening
- (3) Intensive reading
- (4) Rapid reading
- (5) Extensive reading
- (6) Art appreciation

3. Treatment of the Contents

- (1) Instruction on listening and reading should be conducted more effectively through integration with speaking and writing activities.
- (2) Consideration should be given to the volume and difficulty of material as well as the speed that students can handle in listening and reading comprehension.

III. English Expression

1. Objective

To further enhance students' abilities to evaluate facts, opinions, etc. from multiple perspectives and communicate through reasoning and a range of expressions, while fostering a positive attitude toward communication through the English language.

2. Contents

- (1) Pronunciation
- (2) Dialogue
- (3) Speeches
- (4) Presentations
- (5) Debates
- (6) Discussions
- (7) Letters and diaries
- (8) Compositions
- (9) Essays

3. Treatment of the Contents

- (1) When instructing students, reference should be made to the contents of English Expression I and English Expression II described in Chapter 2, Section 8, V. and VI., and the contents of these subjects should be developed and expanded as needed.
- (2) Instruction on speaking and writing should be conducted more effectively through integration with listening and reading activities.
- (3) Students should be taught to use expressions suitable for the situation and purpose, with consideration given to the differences between spoken and written language, forms of expression, passage structure, speed of speech, non-verbal means of communication such as gestures, etc.

IV. Cross-cultural Understanding

1. Objective

To develop appropriate attitudes toward and basic abilities for engaging in proactive communication with people of diverse cultural backgrounds through the English language, while deepening understanding toward foreign countries and cultures.

2. Contents

- (1) Daily life
- (2) Social life
- (3) Manners and customs
- (4) Geography and history
- (5) Traditional culture
- (6) Science and technology
- (7) Other items related to cross-cultural understanding

3. Treatment of the Contents

- (1) Appropriate content should be selected from Contents (1)-(7), in accordance with students' circumstances. Meanwhile, students should be encouraged to deepen their understanding

through such means as exchange of e-mail messages and people-to-people exchanges.

- (2) The current affairs, culture, etc., of Japan should be introduced as needed to encourage students to consider the similarities and differences with those of foreign countries. Consideration should also be given for relevance to other disciplines.

V. Current English

1. Objective

To develop basic abilities to understand the English used in newspapers, TV programs, communication networks, etc. and select and use necessary information.

2. Contents

- (1) Understanding newspapers, magazines, etc.
- (2) Understanding TV programs, movies, etc.
- (3) Understanding information available via communication networks
- (4) Presentations and debates on current issues

3. Treatment of the Contents

A variety of materials should be introduced in accordance with the students' circumstances, giving consideration to the text volume, difficulty, speed, etc. as well as relevance to other disciplines.

Article 3 CURRICULUM DESIGN AND TREATMENT OF THE CONTENTS FOR EACH SUBJECT

1. In designing the curriculum for English-related courses, it should be noted that Comprehensive English and Cross-cultural Understanding are, in principle, mandatory for all students.
2. In the treatment of the contents, consideration should be given to the following points.
 - (1) Students should be instructed to apply their abilities to understand and convey information, ideas, etc., by experiencing various language activities designed for specific language-use situations.
 - (2) In accordance with students' circumstances, while experiencing language activities found in various situations, students should master the items introduced in lower secondary schools and upper secondary schools through repeated instruction.
 - (3) When taking into consideration the characteristics of each English subject, classes, in principle, should be conducted in English in order to enhance the opportunities for students to be exposed to English, transforming classes into real communication scenes. Consideration should be given to use English in accordance with the students' level of comprehension.
 - (4) In order to cultivate communication abilities through the English language in a comprehensive manner, teaching materials that give sufficient consideration to actual language-use situations and functions of language should be used according to the objectives of each subject. Teachers should take up a variety of suitable materials in accordance with the level of students' development, as well as their interests, covering materials that relate to the daily lives, manners and customs, stories, geography, history, traditional culture, natural science, etc., of Japanese people and the people of the world, focusing on countries that use the English language. Special consideration should be given to the following.
 - A. Materials that are useful in understanding various viewpoints and ways of thinking, developing the ability to make impartial judgments and cultivating a rich sensibility.
 - B. Materials that are useful in deepening the understanding of the ways of life and cultures of Japan and foreign countries, raising interest in language and culture, and developing

respectful attitudes toward these elements.

C. Materials that are useful in deepening international understanding from a broad perspective, heightening students' awareness of being Japanese citizens living in a global community, and cultivating a spirit of international cooperation.

D. Materials that are useful in deepening individual thinking on humanity, society, nature, etc.

(5) In the instruction of each subject, teachers should devise teaching methods and styles, incorporating pair work, group work, etc. as appropriate, utilizing suitable audio-visual teaching materials, computers, communication networks, etc. Moreover, team-teaching classes conducted in cooperation with native speakers, etc. should be carried out in order to develop students' communication abilities and to deepen their international understanding.