

Let's Master Academic English (LMAE) Report

Let's Master Academic English (LMAE) was visualized and executed as a Crash Course for II and III UG Basic Level English Students under the able guidance of Dr K.S. Antony, Head, Department of English. The course began with the following **objectives**:

- to enhance the speaking and writing skills based on the language learning needs;
- to build confidence in the learners in mastering the English language skills and
- to facilitate learners for better grades in the examination and a good job in the future and the **course outcomes** where students
- develop confidence and enthusiasm to speak and write English effectively;
- demonstrate practical knowledge of Academic English in speech and writing; and
- display be-job-ready attitude and better communication skills.

The course framework was designed in tune with the Ignatian concept of 'CuraPersonalis', Paulo Friere's 'Dialogic Pedagogy', psychological and sociological framework like Ikigai and Multiple Intelligence. It was envisioned as a clinical approach to language teaching and learning identifying the learning needs of the learners and prescribing the appropriate learning strategies and underscoring one-to-one help to the students to become proficient in Academic English.

The LMAE course was conducted from 28 June 2021 to 22 July 2021 (45 Hours - 1 ½ Hours every day between 9.00 am -1.00 pm) with a student-teacher ratio of 20:1. The course materials were prepared by the faculty of Department of English customized and tailor-made according to the learner's language needs on topics ranging from LSRW skills, Vocabulary Building, Grammar, Pronunciation, Fluency, Spelling, Paragraph Writing, Essay Writing, Job Interviews, Application/Resume/Public Speaking etc.

The course teachers used communicative language teaching, task-based language teaching methods, traditional methods, suggestopedia and other learner-centric teaching methods. They used ICT tools like E-content videos, YouTube, Interactive Whiteboards, tasks and real-time activities and PPT. Games like Kahoot and Mentimeter, Quizizz, educaplay, Insert learning etc. facilitated lively student participation.

At the end of Week 1 a feedback form was shared with the course teachers and the responses were documented. At the end of second week, mid-term review meeting was organised to take stock of strengths, weaknesses and challenges. An integrated objective continuous assessment pattern in a graded manner was opted by the teachers to boost the confidence level of the students to communicate effectively in both speech and writing. The student's feedback was also documented at the end of the course.

Valedictory Session

The event came to a close with a fitting online Valedictory event through Cisco Webex on July 23, 2021 at 10 am. The Guests of Honor were Rev. Dr Francis P. Xavier SJ, Rector, Rev. Dr A. Thomas SJ, Principal, Rev. Dr. D. Selvanayakam SJ, Secretary (in absentia) and Dr. Melchias Gabriel, Deputy Principal, Loyola College, Chennai.



The online event began with an invocation prayer rendered by Dr. Preethi Shanthi. Dr KS Antonysamy, Head, Department of English welcomed the gathering and kick started the course of the event. Followed by the welcome address, Dr P. Mary Vidya Porselvi, Co-ordinator, LMAE course, released the LMAE Report with its origin, concept note, planning model, methodologies, student benefactors and the role of Course Teachers with clear-cut evidence through PPT Slides.

Then, the student representatives from each class provided their feedback, reflecting on the distinct methodology of their Course Teachers, strengths, their take-away lessons, classroom activities that they enjoyed and its impact on their learning curve. It was a remarkable experience shared by the students, where they spoke in English, in an online crowd, with confidence and exhibited their gratitude to the College, Department and Course Teachers.



Rev. Dr. A. Thomas SJ, Principal, exuberated the diligent efforts of the Department and LMAE Team for the success stories of the Loyola students. Rev. Dr. Francis P. Xavier SJ, Rector, in his eloquent style, briefed the students on the various techniques to improve one’s language skills- reading books, providing recommended reading lists, writing compositions. He inspired the students to develop themselves holistically, through perseverance, consistency in habits, commitment and dedication.



Finally, Prof. Santhosh Kumar, Co-ordinator, Department of English, Shift II, proposed vote of thanks acknowledging the effort of LMAE Team and active role of the faculty members of the Department. On the whole, LMAE has been a successful experiment with its laudable planning, execution and the success stories it has created. It will be remembered by the students, parents and the faculty for upholding the true Ignatian spirit of Magis and committed service rooted in justice and love.
