



THE ENGLISH ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (EAC) STRATEGY

Every teacher is a language teacher



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



WHAT IS ENGLISH ACROSS THE CURRICULUM (EAC)

- English Across the Curriculum (EAC) is a strategy for integrating the teaching of content subjects with language learning. In South Africa this strategy involves the teaching of language in a content- based manner. In Europe Content- based language teaching is referred to as - Content and Language Integrated Learning CLIL; in other areas it is referred to as Language Across the Curriculum (LAC) or cross-curricular language learning.
- In South Africa the term EAC has been adopted instead of LAC because the majority of learners are taught through the medium of English as a second/ additional language.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A STRATEGY FOR TEACHING EAC?

- Learning in all subjects is dependent upon language; as a result effective language development facilitates the learning of content subjects.
- The basic language skills, namely: Listening and Speaking, Reading and Viewing and Writing and Presenting are indispensable tools for the learning process as the learners move across the curriculum.
- Because the language of learning and teaching (LoLT) is the key to understanding the subject content in a school, a strategy for teaching EAC will help improve learners' language proficiency and understanding of academic content.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF LEARNERS AND TEACHERS IN THE EAC STRATEGY?

Learners

- Use listening, speaking, reading and viewing and writing skills to order and classify thoughts and information.
- Learn the language appropriate to the subject (academic language).

Content subjects teachers

- Address applicable language aspects in order to enhance learning.
- Model the language of their subject.
- Teach language skills or introduce related skills/concepts in their lesson, integrating language and content.

English teachers

- Introduce and teach the language skills, reinforcing them from time to time in English lessons.
- Teach grammatical structures and vocabulary builders in order to improve language proficiency and the acquisition of academic language.
- use texts from content subjects as much as possible in order to enhance the acquisition of subject content.

WHAT ARE THE MEASURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE EAC STRATEGY?

Department of Basic Education

- In response to Minister Motshekga's concern about LoLT being a barrier to learning, the DBE has developed two *Manuals for teaching EAC namely*: **Manual for Teaching English Across the Curriculum 2013** and **The Manual for teaching EAC: Book 2**.
- The DBE has also trained subject advisors and provincial subject coordinators on how to implement the EAC strategy and will monitor the implementation of this strategy.

Provincial Departments of Education

The provincial departments including district subject advisors must train teachers and monitor the implementation of the EAC Strategy in schools.

The school

- The schools should ensure that there is an organisational structure in the school which helps to organise and implement the Strategy for teaching English across the curriculum.
- English Language teachers and content subject teachers should contribute and get support in dealing with language issues as well as to work towards a common target.

HOW DO WE IMPLEMENT THE EAC STRATEGY?

The questions by a learner (Jabu) to teacher (ma'am) will assist you to understand how to implement the EAC strategy.



$\{=\}$ means *equal*

Equal means *equivalent*

Jabu: Teacher, why do you explain to me what **equal** means because this is the job of a language teacher?

Teacher: No Jabu. My Job is not just to teach subject content; I'm also responsible for teaching you language. I can't teach Maths without teaching everyday English as well as the academic language.

Jabu: What is academic English teacher?

Teacher: Each and every subject in the curriculum has certain words that are only used in that subject e.g. the meaning of **equal** in a sum, the word **factorise** in algebra is the academic language of Maths.

Jabu: Because you say that you are also responsible for teaching me language does it mean that you are also going to teach me listening and speaking, reading and viewing, writing and presenting just like my English teacher?

Teacher: Yes Jabu, when we are engaged in the learning and teaching process we use language skills. Look when I teach I speak and you listen, and when you ask questions I listen to you and respond and when you discuss the content with your peers listening and speaking are involved and you listen with a purpose. You could listen for specific information, to appreciate and to critically evaluate information.

Jabu: Ma'am do I need to participate in rendering speeches and participate in debates and interviews in the maths classroom?

Teacher: Yes Jabu: I can ask you to debate about the accuracy of some statistics or you can present a speech.

Jabu: What about writing ma'am?

Teacher: Jabu are you aware that you are always engaged in casual writing? For

A **Writing-to-learn strategy** is one that teachers employ throughout and/or at the end of a lesson to engage learners and develop big ideas and concepts.

example when I teach, you listen and you take notes, you summarise what I have said. This kind of writing is called **writing to learn**. Jabu, I actually want you

to write notes about what you have learnt today and write in your diary or journal what was interesting and what you still want to learn.

Jabu: Ma'am I don't have a log book and a journal and why such an overdose of writing in a Maths lesson ma'am. Do you want me to go and buy a journal?

Teacher: Jabu don't go and buy new stationery. Please use your old books. Jabu you are writing in order to learn. **Writing and more writing will help you to learn.** Your notes and summaries will tell you if you have learnt something today and your journal will remind you if there are thing that were interesting and things you still want to learn.

Jabu: Do you also expect me to write essays just like in my English classroom?

Teacher: No if the Maths curriculum does not require you to write an essay, do not bother yourself, but you see in subjects such as History, learners are expected to write essays and they are expected to plan, do research, write their drafts and edit their work just like in the language classroom. This type of writing is called writing to **demonstrate knowledge** .

Jabu: What about reading, must I read magazines, cartoons, newspapers just like in the language classroom?

Teacher: Yes Jabu, you must read anything that can help you to understand content. A good reader is a good writer.

Jabu: What about language structures and conventions?

Teacher: Jabu, without the correct use of grammatical structures and rules learning won't take place. Do you know that when you give a report about your science experiments you must be able to use the past tense and also use punctuation marks properly?

A **writing-to-demonstrate-knowledge assignment** is one that teachers employ when they assign reports, essays, persuasive writing, creative and transactional writing, as well as research papers.

Jabu: Ma'am can you please explain the vocabulary development thing.

Teacher: When I explained to you that **equal** means **equivalent** I was giving you synonyms (words which have the same meaning). Jabu, I know that in your life science classroom your teacher also develops your vocabulary, and I heard him the other day explaining the word **photosynthesis** saying that photo=light; synthesis means building, photosynthesis means building carbohydrates.

Jabu: All the things you have mentioned are not new ma'am so why are we reminded that **Every teacher is a language teacher?**

Teacher: We are reminded so that we as content subject teachers can consciously teach language. It means that each time I plan a lesson I need to think about how I can improve all your language skills so that your language abilities can improve and this will improve your understanding of the content and consequently improve your performance.

Jabu: Thank you ma'am and I hope the language teachers and the content teachers will plan together and the School Management Team (SMT) will help to organise and implement the Strategy for teaching English across the curriculum.

Teacher: They have no choice. **They must just do it.**

