



'The great thing about teaching English to teenagers is that English is in itself an incredibly useful Life Skill for them, something that can help them in their studies at school or university, offer them more and better career prospects, and also enrich and expand their leisure options.' [Dave Spencer, 2021]

Points to ponder

1a When you were a secondary school student, how well do you think your school prepared you for life after school? Circle a number on the continuum below:

Not all _____ Extremely well
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1b What makes you say that? Explain why you have circled the number above.

2 In the 21st Century, what key skills do you feel your teenagers need to develop to succeed in life beyond the classroom and the world of work?

3 What do you feel **you** need to know to help your students best prepare for their exam(s)?

4a Traditional approaches to education often contain elements listed in the left column. Can you guess what elements progressive education aims to develop? Write your ideas in the column on the right.

Traditional approach to education	Progressive approach to education
<i>Memorising facts</i>	
<i>Retaining knowledge</i>	
<i>Empty receptable</i>	
<i>Surface learning</i>	

4b According to the elements described, do you think your school or your country's education system is more 'traditional' or 'progressive'?

5 In reaction to perceived needs of our modern-day society the United Nations has created 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Each goal requires teaching and learning to empower our learners with the knowledge, skills and values to live and contribute to the world. **How important do you think is to incorporate these goals into our teaching?**
How could we do that in the ELT classroom?



Image taken from <https://en.unesco.org/themes/education/sdgs/material>