

APPENDIX: SUGGESTIONS FOR MATERIALS WRITERS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Appendix for the MS4 Curriculum Guide provides sample themes and topics that span the seven years of the Algerian English curriculum. These sample themes and topics are found in Section B. They can be used by materials writers as a basis for developing units and materials that are consistent with the Guiding Principles and are based on the competencies described in the Algerian English Framework. A sample unit is provided in Section D that is based on the theme of places. The unit follows a unit cycle that is described in Section C. Materials writers can use the unit cycle as a framework for developing further units. The unit cycle addresses each of the competencies. The sample unit provides examples of learning activities as well as assessment activities.

B. SAMPLE THEMES AND TOPICS

In this section, sample themes and topics are presented across the seven years of study. General themes were determined through analysis of current Algerian textbooks and the Common European Framework. The themes are listed vertically in the table below. They develop from the most concrete to the more abstract:

- People
- School/Work
- Abilities and Interests
- Food and Health
- Places
- Experiences
- Current Events and Issues
- Stories

Each theme is manifest in a related topic each year of language study, from MS1 to SE3. The progression of the topics begins with a focus on the learner: his or her basic personal information such as name and hometown, daily activities, describing the home, school timetable, weather and personal health.* Toward the end of middle school, the topics begin to expand to include the learner's community, for example, describing cities and transportation, jobs and local news. By high school, the topics encompass the world beyond Algeria to include issues that involve critical thinking: English as an International Language, Technology, Ethical Situations and Dilemmas.

* On the table of themes and topics, the MS1 and MS2 topics for the *Current Events and Issues* theme are shown with lines drawn through them to signify that those years do not have topics for that theme. The theme is too far removed from the concrete, learner-focus of MS1 and MS2.

	MS1	MS2	ENTRY LEVEL	MS4	SE1	SE2	SE3
PEOPLE	Basic personal Information	Extended family Physical descriptions and clothing	Family Sketches: history, habits and apologies	Personality and qualities Comparisons	Friends and family relationships	Inspiring figures: Biography	Diversity and intercultural communication
SCHOOL/WORK	Classroom: objects language, prepositions of place, possessions Numbers	School Basics: Subjects Time Timetable Likes, good at Making plans	School life: Events, vacations, gender, clothing, seasons, frequency and duration	Jobs and Job Interviews: Experience, qualifications, personality, Small talk	Learning English: learning styles and strategies, preferences, experiences, advice and regrets	English as an international language	Ethical situations and dilemmas
ABILITIES INTERESTS	Daily activities Hobbies and interests	Sports: teams, scores, statistics, popularity National and World Games	Skills and Talents Needs, requirements and instructions / demonstrations	Making Plans: talking about music, movies and leisure activities Directions	Technology and Inventions Complaints	Teen trends and values	Social Networking: Protocols and pitfalls
FOOD AND HEALTH	Food: names Countable and Uncountable nouns Restaurant ordering Currency, prices	Sickness & Health Parts of body Describing sickness Give simple advice	Food Choices: quantifiers frequency	Home cooking and customs: recipes	Healthy Habits: energy levels, stress, diet, exercise, social life	Man-made materials in daily life: Convenience and Safety Processes	Teen health issues around the world
PLACES	Homes: rooms, objects Prepositions of place	Neighborhoods: types of buildings Prepositions of place Distance Walking directions Large numbers	Cities: types of places (park, bridge, playground, downtown) distance Public transport and driving directions	Landmarks and monuments: Types of landmarks (statues, memorials) describing their use and history	Natural Wonders Describing natural land formations and Wonders of the World and future plans.	Eco-tours around the world Advantages, disadvantages and validity of claims	Changing landscape and lives of people and animals
EXPERIENCES	Recent Experiences: What did you do last weekend/night?	Seasonal activities and vacations: Weather	Hopes and dreams	Accidents and Unexpected Events	Memorable Moments	Clothes and appearance around the world	Lives in transition: goal setting
CURRENT EVENTS AND ISSUES			Human interest stories in the news	Disasters and Local News	Issues in Algeria	Science and technology: breakthroughs, effects, pros and cons	Public Concerns for the international community
STORIES	Children's poems	Folk Stories	Athletes & Teams:	Dreams:	Growing up:	International	Culture bumps, or

	and chants Numbers		Overcoming obstacles and odds	Description and interpretation	influence of parents and teachers	holidays and celebrations	conflicts: values and strategies
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