BRITISH COUNCIL

TeachingEnglish

Using 21st century skills / core skills

Theme-based workbook

Your reflective journal and additional resources

Foreword

Welcome to the workbook for the professional development theme of Using 21st century skills / core skills. Thank you for joining us to develop your skills and continue your professional development with TeachingEnglish.

We know that it's not always easy to find time for professional development, so we've designed this workbook to help you find key insights, recommended materials, reflection spaces, and practical guidance.

This workbook is the second of three teacher pathways for educators looking to develop their skills and knowledge of using 21st century skills / core skills:

1. Getting started with using 21st century skills / core skills – a ready-made pathway of carefully chosen learning resources and tools to get you started.
2. Going further with using 21st century skills / core skills – this workbook provides guided reflection activities to help you personalise your learning pathway and take your skills to the next level.
3. Working on using 21st century skills / core skills with others – a group study guide that includes practical case studies and and professional development activities to explore the theme with others.

Take the pathways that are the best fit for you – or make your own. We're looking forward to learning with you.

The TeachingEnglish team

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What is ‘Using 21st century skills / core skills’?

What does Using 21st century skills / core skills involve?

Using 21st century skills / core skills is about helping you and your learners get the skills they need for life and learning in today’s fast-changing world. It includes learning how to think critically, solve problems, communicate well, work with others, and be creative. It also means becoming active citizens, understanding other cultures, and being ready for future jobs. It also involves helping learners build confidence, independence and improving their digital, emotional, and media skills.

What can a teacher who uses 21st century skills / core skills do?

A teacher who uses 21st century / core skills can:

- [ ] help their learners build important skills like thinking, problem-solving, communication, and creativity.
- [ ] support their learners to work well with others and become more confident and independent in their learning.
- [ ] teach digital, media, and emotional skills to help learners succeed in school and life.
- [ ] choose and use activities and materials that help develop learners’ life and learning skills.
- [ ] reflect on their own skills and work so they can better support learners.

Self-assessment test

How can you start developing your skills in different elements of Using 21st century skills / core skills?

Reflecting on how you currently use 21st century skills / core skills as a teacher, and develop them in your learners is an important starting point. The way you do this might be different depending on whether you are teaching face-to-face or remotely and according to the type of technology you have available.

Self-assessment test (cont)

Use the self-assessment test below to evaluate your strengths and areas of development. Give yourself between ★ (not confident) and ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (very confident), depending on how you feel about doing each of the things.

I think about how well I use 21st-century/core skills like problem-solving, creativity, and communication in my own work.	
I give my learners chances to be active, ask questions, and take responsibility for their learning.	
I help my learners work in teams and respect different opinions and cultures.	
I use activities that help learners build skills for life, like using digital tools or managing their emotions.	
I reflect on why these skills are important for learning and for the future.	
I look for ways to improve how I teach these skills by learning from others or trying new ideas.	

What should you do next?

How many stars did you get? Write the total here:

0–6 stars	The teacher pathways will help you to develop your understanding of Using 21st century skills / core skills. Try the self-assessment test again after you've followed it to see your progress.
7–18 stars	You have a good awareness of Using 21st century skills / core skills. Follow the teacher pathways with us and join our TeachingEnglish activities. Come back to the self-assessment test to see what you've learned.
19–24 stars	You have already developed lots of skills and knowledge that help you use 21st century skills / core skills. Which section would you like more help with from the teacher pathways?
25–30 stars	You are a Using 21st century skills / core skills champion! You are already integrating this knowledge in your teaching. Share your knowledge and skills with other teachers in our TeachingEnglish community.

What are your learning goals?

Considering the elements of Using 21st century skills / core skills that are most relevant for your teaching context will help you focus your study time more effectively. Check pages two and three for a reminder of what for a reminder of what Using 21st century skills / core skills involves, your strengths and development areas. Complete the following prompts.

Which elements of Using 21st century skills / core skills are most important for you and your learners?

The most useful elements of Using 21st century skills / core skills in my context ...

Improving my use of 21st century skills / core skills will help me and my learners ...

Consider Using 21st century skills / core skills. What are your strengths?

My strengths in Using 21st century skills / core skills are ...

Which kinds of resources would you use to develop your skills and knowledge of using 21st century skills / core skills?

I need to develop ...

How can TeachingEnglish help you develop?

Whatever aspect of English teaching you want to improve, TeachingEnglish has the resources and support to help you make a difference, whether you have five minutes, an hour or more.

Find the best combination for your needs, available time and context by exploring the following options.

Online communities (5 minutes+)

A dedicated, vibrant and inclusive online English language teaching community to empower teachers and teacher educators to collaborate and share knowledge. Join the conversation and access interactive live sessions and links to further professional development opportunities on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

Which TeachingEnglish online communities or social media channels will you use to connect with us?

The TeachingEnglish online communities I'd like to join are ... I might use them to ...

TeachingEnglish resources (10 minutes+)

Access lesson plans, podcasts, articles and publications to help you develop your skills and knowledge of 21st century skills / core skills. Choose from the resources on page eight or search TeachingEnglish to develop your skills.

Which kinds of resources would you use to develop your skills and knowledge of understanding your learners?

I'd like to listen to, read, watch or use resources like ...

Live events and webinars (1 hour)

Our webinars are given by TeachingEnglish community members working in classrooms throughout the world. Our free webinars for teachers are held monthly, and you will receive a certificate for participating. Many webinars are followed by additional Q&A sessions that give teachers a chance to reflect and ask questions as they bring new ideas from the webinar into their teaching. Learn more about attending live on Zoom, Facebook and YouTube, or watching a recording.

Which TeachingEnglish live events and webinars would you like to join or watch?

The TeachingEnglish live events and webinars I'd like to join or watch are ...

Training courses (12 hours+)

Explore a range of courses related to using 21st century skills / core skills. Each course takes approximately 12 hours to complete, and you can access and complete the self-study modules at your own pace. Join our Courses for teachers Facebook community to share your learning with other teachers and get feedback and guidance from our experienced tutors. Learn more about current courses you can enrol on or join immediately.

Which TeachingEnglish training courses would you like to join?

The TeachingEnglish training courses I'd like to join are ...

Resources

Below you will find a selection of resources to develop your understanding and application of Using 21st century skills / core skills. Use your answers on page three to guide your learning and the tick boxes to keep track of which resources you have used.

Time (mins)	Type	Resource description (tap/click to open)	Used?
5	Read	Theme overview: Using 21C skills or core skills	☐
5	Read	Article: A celebration of languages	☐
5	Read	Article: Empowering learners with project-based learning	☐
5	Read	Article: Global Issues	☐
5	Read	Article: How to Implement 21st century skills in class	☐
5	Read	Article: Primary learners and inquiry-based learning	☐
10	Read	Article: An overview of digital literacies	☐
10	Read	Article: English teaching in the post-truth era	☐
10	Read	Article: Global issues in ELT classes	☐
15	Read	Lesson plan (60 mins): Fake news	☐
15	Read	Lesson plan (60 mins): Taking liberties	☐
15	Read	Lesson plan (70 mins): My AI teacher	☐
15	Read	Lesson plan (80 mins): AI and ethics in education	☐
15	Read	Lesson plan (80 mins): What is AI?	☐
30	Listen	Podcast: Bringing critical thinking into ELT	☐
30	Listen	Podcast: Education in focus 4: 21st century skills	☐
30	Listen	Podcast: How can I integrate global issues into my teaching?	☐
30	Listen	Podcast: Integrating SDGs into teaching	☐
30	Listen	Podcast:Why 21st century skills are important	☐
30	Read	Report: Pre-sessional English language courses	☐
45	Read	Group study guide: Promoting 21st century skills	☐
45	Read	Report: Critical thinking in teacher education in China	☐
45	Read	Report: From English learners to intercultural citizens	☐
60	Watch	Webinar: Critical and creative thinking in the ELT classroom	☐
60	Watch	Webinar: Life skills: Lessons taught; lessons learnt	☐
60	Watch	Webinar: Lifelong learning in the 21st century classroom	☐
120	Watch	Webinars: Creativity and 21st century skills in ELT	☐
180	Watch	Webinars: AI for learning	☐
180	Watch	Webinars: ICT in the classroom	☐

Resources (cont)

At TeachingEnglish, we're constantly updating and adding to the selection of free articles, publications, lesson plans, live sessions and webinars available for teachers. Check our TeachingEnglish website and TeachingEnglish YouTube for the latest resources.

Use this space to note teaching ideas – and where you found them – that may help you and your learners with using 21st century skills / core skills. You can record ideas from training courses, articles, podcasts, webinars or other teachers in live sessions or online communities.

An idea that may help improve my teaching is ... I discovered it in ...

What are you going to change?

Now plan to change your teaching. Starting with a SMART goal will help you make the change and better understand the impact it makes.

A SMART goal is:

- **S**pecific (What exactly do you want to achieve?)
- **M**easurable (How will you know if it happened and the difference it made?)
- **A**chievable (Is it challenging but possible?)
- **R**elevant (Does it help you and your learners?)
- **T**imebound (When will you do it?)

Look back through this workbook and think about your learners. Choose one thing you'd like to be different about your teaching or classroom experience. Write it as a SMART goal.

Something I'd like to be different in my classroom or teaching is ...

A change I can make that will help achieve that is ...

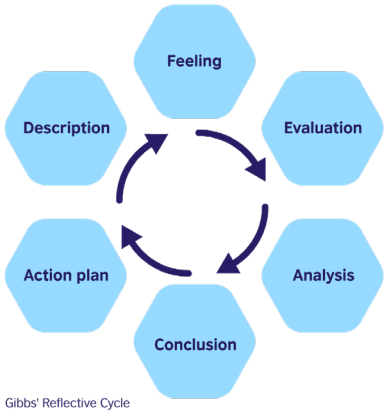
I will need ...

Some challenges might be ...

To solve those challenges, I could ...

What have you learned from making a change?

Using this reflective cycle as you work through the theme and introduce new ideas into your teaching will help you learn from experience and develop further. It can deepen your learning by guiding you to apply new ideas, assess their impact and adjust your approach. Use it after lessons, when trying new strategies or when facing challenges. By making reflection a habit, you'll continue to grow as a practitioner and better support your learners.



Gibbs' Reflective Cycle

Make the change you planned in the last section, then reflect upon it. Sharing your answers to the following questions will guide you through the reflective cycle.

The change I made was ... When I made the change, my learners ...

Description

After making the change, I felt ... My learners felt ...

Feeling

Some good/bad things about the change were ... I know this because ...

Evaluation

I think things happened this way because ...

Analysis

The main things I learned from making this change to my teaching are ...

Conclusion

In future I will ... I will develop the skills and knowledge I need by ...

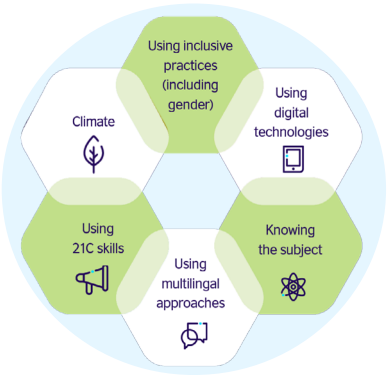
Action plan

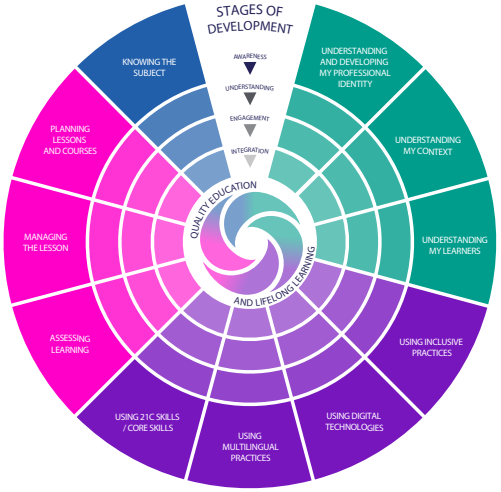
What can you do now?

Well done — you've developed the professional practice of Using 21st century skills / core skills.. We hope you've found this teacher pathway workbook useful.

On pages 10 and 11 you planned to introduce a change into your teaching and then reflect upon it. You can follow the same steps to experiment with other ideas you've discovered while exploring Using 21st century skills / core skills.. We'd love to hear how this goes – you can connect and share your experience, questions and insights with us, and our global network of English teachers in any of our online communities. Follow #CoreSkills.

The British Council professional practices are deeply interconnected and not meant to stand alone. Therefore, we encourage you to take a look at and consider how you might use our CPD Framework for teachers.





Continue your learning with us by:

- Joining the conversation and following our English teacher communities on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.
- Subscribing to our newsletter
- Enroling on a free TeachingEnglish training course.
- Accessing TeachingEnglish webinars for teachers and teacher educators.
- Listening to TeachingEnglish podcasts for teachers.
- Exploring our framework for teacher knowledge and skills and other professional practices for inspiration, support and materials.
- Finding out what else is happening on TeachingEnglish.