



LỘ TRÌNH HỌC THPT CHUYÊN MÔN TIẾNG ANH

WORKSHOP HÀNH TRANG SLÃY 10 CHUYÊN

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1. Introduction:

Every single student setting foot in their new high schools' classes for gifted English will bring different aims and expectations with them. However, not all of them have had everything worked out, which may leave some directionless and uncertain. With that in mind, this article will put forth possible learning pathways for the purpose of guiding such students towards achieving three main goals: participation in the NEC (the National English Competition), studying abroad and staying back for higher education at home. However, it should be noted that this only serves as a guide, and the specific courses of action for each person will vary.

2. National English competition (HSGQG):

Exclusive to the best of the best, the National English Competition (*Kỳ thi chọn học sinh giỏi quốc gia THPT*) is the pinnacle of English proficiency in Vietnam, where earning a prize takes not only skill, but also dogged determination. So, what can you do to power through the province's team selection test and (hopefully) exceed your expectations in the competition?

- a. **Focus on skills, not just vocabulary (Lexico-Grammar).** The NEC will emphasise your English skills (Listening, Use of English, Reading, Writing and Speaking) rather than solely focusing on vocabulary and grammar exercises alone.
- b. **Familiarise yourself with the test.** Complete past papers for the NEC to get a hang of how the test is designed and structured, and from there devise a strategy for tackling the test. Do bear in mind that most team selection tests and the NEC only last for 180 minutes, so good time management skills are also crucial to your outcome.
- c. **Prepare meticulously.** This can range from honing your skills with CPE books, to partaking in regional contests such as 30/4 Olympics and *Duyên hải Bắc bộ* to acquire real-time test room experience.



- d. **Take care of your health.** This is self-explanatory, but given that you will have to endure a lot of trials and tribulations in preparing for the NEC, you should look after your physical, emotional and psychological well-being at all times.

3. Studying abroad:

With fierce competition from high-achievers all over the globe, getting admitted into international universities is no pushover. Here are several prerequisites to be satisfied.

- **Decide on a major, country and university to study in.** This is the first step, yet also one of the most important steps. If you're feeling directionless, try out a range of academic activities and extracurriculars to determine what you are truly interested in.
- **Prepare for and take standardised tests (e.g. SAT, IELTS, AP, TOEFL).** These tests certify your ability as a foreign student to learn and live in an English-speaking environment.
- **Start writing and polishing your personal statement essay.** Your personal statement is where you can showcase your uniqueness and individuality, which is why it warrants meticulous preparation. A good personal statement will make you stand out from others who have the same or even higher GPA or more impressive extracurricular achievements.
- **Maintain a high GPA, preferably from 9.0/10 or above.** This will serve as an indicator of your ability to pursue your academic studies at university level.
- **Get involved in extracurricular/volunteering activities and projects:** This will give you some extra edge against your peers by showing your interest in bringing value to society/your communities and how you align with the school's set of principles.

4. Higher education at home:

Finally, even though those seeking higher education at home may have an easier time deciding what to do, it is undeniable that there are still many things to be taken care of.

Their work includes (but is not limited to):

- **Decide on a major, country and university to study in.** This is also the first step, similar to studying abroad. Academic activities and extracurriculars may show you where you want to go next.
- **Maintaining a high GPA (9.0/10 or above):** This may come in handy for those seeking direct admission.
- **Sitting Đánh giá Năng lực tests:** These will provide other viable options for those who are not sitting the National Exam.
- **International certificates (preferably IELTS or TOEFL):** These may also be helpful to those preferring direct admission.
- **Joining extracurricular/volunteering activities and projects:** These activities can offer you many learning experiences and spice up an otherwise monotonous or stressful student life.



5. Important notes:

With almost everything out of the way, there are still several issues that merit attention.

- **Your physical and mental well-being must be prioritised;** there is no percentage in trading off your health for short-term gains.
- **Adopt independent learning strategies.** Goal-setting, study planning and self-reflection are vital to effective learning and successfully fulfilling the tasks required for those directions.
- Last but not least, **consistency outweighs intensity in the long run.** Persistently putting in the work is wiser than blindly trying to get too much on your plate.

6. Conclusion:

As an English-major student, there are many different paths you can choose to tread throughout 3 years of high school. Embrace the unknown, be open to challenges, and always keep a cool head, come rain or shine.