

Autonomous Institution Affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi Approved by AICTE, New Delhi



R V College of Engineering has partnered with the STEP-English Learning Course. The college has mandated the English course for all students, making it a two-credit requirement. According to the guidelines set forth by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Communicative English Lab stands as a requisite subject for first and second-semester students enrolled in Engineering and Technology programs. This course carries two exclusive credits, to be earned across the span of two semesters, emphasizing the significance of language proficiency in the academic curriculum.

In a strategic collaboration, RV College of Engineering (RVCE) has forged a partnership with STEP, a distinguished initiative by The Hindu group. This partnership extends a unique platform to learners, facilitating an enriched learning experience in the English language domain.

Through this initiative, students are empowered to augment their linguistic competence and communication skills, aligning with the evolving demands of the global academic landscape. The collaborative efforts between RVCE and STEP exemplify a commitment to fostering holistic educational development and equipping students with essential tools for success in their academic and professional endeavors.

The Step Learning Platform is set to unveil a comprehensive diagnostic test as the initial phase of evaluating students' capabilities, laying the foundation for a personalized learning experience. Each question in the test is meticulously crafted to yield insights into the student's performance, with subsequent questions dynamically adjusted based on their responses. This personalized approach ensures students are appropriately placed in beginner, intermediate, or advanced levels, establishing the framework for a tailored learning journey. Upon completion of the diagnostic test, students gain access to a robust course comprising 20 modules, each carefully tailored to their aptitude performance. Within these modules, students encounter 15 diverse tasks aimed at honing skills in listening, writing, reading, vocabulary, and grammar, with ongoing evaluation seamlessly integrated into the learning process.

The course progression includes two Continuous Internal Exams (CIE 1 and CIE 2), acting as checkpoints to monitor student progress and understanding. Subsequently, students participate in Experiential Learning (EL), encompassing dynamic activities designed to enhance both oral and written communication skills. From pick-and-speak sessions to engaging debates, grammar topic videos, and creative writing exercises such as essays and poems, the EL component offers an immersive and interactive learning experience. Finally, Semester-End Exams (SEE) are conducted to provide a comprehensive evaluation of students' overall performance, offering valuable insights into their progress and proficiency levels. With its holistic approach to assessment and learning, the Step Learning Platform stands as an exemplar of innovation in education, empowering students to excel in their academic pursuits.

#### STEP

STEP, acronym for "the Standardized Test of English Proficiency," is an initiative of The Hindu Group, launched in August 2016. The Hindu, a newspaper established in 1878, boasts a readership of over 2 million people in India. STEP serves as an effective tool for testing and enhancing English proficiency. It adapts and customizes its approach to cater to individual learning styles, utilizing content sourced from India, which facilitates a more accessible and comprehensive learning experience for users.



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This approach aids in mitigating challenges arising from cultural differences during English language acquisition.

Understanding your STEP score is crucial. STEP scores are aligned with global standards and cater to the requirements of employers. The table below provides an estimation of typical performance on international benchmarks based on your STEP score, offering valuable insights into your English proficiency level.



Figure 1.1 - Alignment of the STEP score to global standards

Students undergo a thorough assessment process, comprising two internal assessments, one external examination, and a pivotal element known as experiential learning.



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#### 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

RVCE collaborated with STEP from The Hindu to enhance the English language proficiency of 1376 first-year engineering students across 15 different branches. The project's objective is to elevate the proficiency levels of English language skills. The project unfolded through the following stages:

#### 1.1 Online course:

Subsequently, students were granted access to 10 units of the online course, featuring dynamic video-based lessons concentrating on diverse concepts aimed at enhancing their speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar, and vocabulary skills.

The adjacent table provides information on the number of students enrolled in STEP LEARNING at RVCE.

| Name of Department | Total |
|--------------------|-------|
| AE                 | 65    |
| ME                 | 128   |
| IM                 | 64    |
| IS                 | 81    |
| ET                 | 63    |
| EI                 | 63    |
| EE                 | 66    |
| EC                 | 191   |
| CV                 | 124   |
| CS-CY              | 63    |
| CS-CD              | 63    |
| CS                 | 240   |
| СН                 | 42    |
| ВТ                 | 64    |
| AI                 | 63    |



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1.2 Internal assessment 1:

Additionally, students have completed the internal assessment. Among the 1376 students, 1256 took part in the CIE I exam. The distribution of students across various score ranges is outlined as follows:

#### 1.2.1 CIE | Score Analysis

1.The majority of students (1096 out of 1256) achieved scores in the 31–50 range, indicating a commendable level of English proficiency.

2. A notable group of students (156 out of 1256) secured scores in the 21–30 range, signifying a satisfactory level of English proficiency.

Students have also taken the internal assessment. Out of 1376 students, 1335 participated in the CIE 2 exam. The distribution of students in different score ranges is as follows

### 1.3.1 CIE 2 Score Analysis

1.3 Internal assessment 2:

The majority of students (1219 out of 1335) achieved scores in the 31-50 range, indicating a commendable level of English proficiency. A significant number of students (113 out of 1335) secured scores in the 21-30 range, suggesting a fair level of English proficiency. A smaller subset of students, specifically three individuals, attained scores in the 11-20 range, indicating room for improvement in their English language skills.



This a graph representing scores of second internals



(40, 50]



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Students completed the final semester exam from October 12th to 16th. Out of 1376 students, 1354 took part in the SEE 2 exam. The distribution of students across various score ranges is as follows:

## 1.4.1 SEE 2 Score Analysis

The majority of students (1182 out of 1354) achieved scores in the 31–50 range, indicating a commendable level of English proficiency. A significant number of students (170 out of 1354) secured scores in the 21–30 range, suggesting a fair level of English proficiency.



A smaller proportion of students scored in the range of 11-20 (2 students), indicate room for improvement in their English language skills.

#### 1.5 Performance in terms of proficiency levels





#### This graph shows the proficiency levels of students



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During the Step Learning course, students will undergo both internal exams and semester-end exams. Upon completion of these tests, students will be provided with grades and a certificate.

