

University of Mujahid Abdelhafid Boussouf – Mila

Faculty of Economics, Commercial & Management Sciences

Departement Of Tronc Commun

Lectures On : Academic English

Addressed To 1st Year Students – 1st Semester

By Teacher: Zemouri Kamel

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Introduction to Academic Context

Introduction

Academic context refers to the environment in which teaching, learning, research, and scientific communication take place. It includes universities, colleges, classrooms, libraries, research centers, and all the activities related to education and knowledge.

1. Definition of Academic Context

The academic context is the educational and intellectual environment in which teaching, learning, and research take place, guided by academic standards and practices for producing, evaluating, and sharing knowledge.

2. Characteristics of Academic Context

The academic context is characterized by several important features:

- ✓ **Formality:** Academic communication often follows formal language and established conventions.
- ✓ **Objectivity:** Academic work should be based on evidence, facts, and logical reasoning.
- ✓ **Critical Thinking:** Students are encouraged to analyze, evaluate, and question information.
- ✓ **Academic Integrity:** Students must avoid plagiarism, cheating, and the dishonest use of sources.
- ✓ **Research and Evidence:** Academic arguments should be supported by reliable sources and relevant evidence.
- ✓ **Collaboration:** Students and researchers exchange ideas and work together to develop knowledge.

3. Importance of Academic Context

Understanding the academic context helps students adapt to university life, communicate effectively with teachers and classmates, write academic assignments correctly, conduct research, and respect academic rules.

Also the importance of the academic context can be through the following elements:

- ✓ **Promotes Learning:** Facilitates the acquisition and understanding of knowledge.
- ✓ **Develops Critical Thinking:** Encourages students to analyze information and evaluate ideas.
- ✓ **Improves Academic Communication:** Enhances formal speaking, writing, and presentation skills.
- ✓ **Supports Research:** Helps students develop research skills and use reliable sources.
- ✓ **Ensures Academic Integrity:** Promotes honesty, originality, and the proper use of references.
- ✓ **Encourages Collaboration:** Facilitates the exchange of ideas among students, teachers, and researchers.

✓ **Prepares Students for Professional Life:** Develops skills and knowledge required for future careers.

4. Main Components of Academic Context

The key components of the academic context consist of the following elements:

✓ **Students:** Students are the central participants in the learning process. They attend lectures, complete assignments, participate in discussions, and develop critical-thinking skills.

✓ **Teachers and Professors:** Teachers and professors explain concepts, guide students, evaluate their performance, and encourage independent learning.

✓ **Academic Resources:** These include textbooks, scientific journals, libraries, databases, online courses, and research papers.

✓ **Academic Activities:** These activities include lectures, seminars, presentations, examinations, group projects, and scientific research.

5. Academic Language

Academic language is the formal style of communication used in universities and scientific research. It differs from everyday language because it emphasizes precision, clarity, objectivity, and logical organization.

The characteristics of academic language include the following:

✓ **Formality:** Uses formal expressions.

✓ **Clarity:** Presents ideas clearly.

✓ **Precision:** Uses accurate and specific terms.

✓ **Objectivity:** Avoids personal bias.

✓ **Logical Organization:** Presents ideas in a coherent order.

✓ **Evidence-Based:** Supports arguments with reliable sources.

✓ **Academic Vocabulary:** Uses specialized and discipline-specific terms.

6. Academic Skills

To succeed in an academic context, students need to develop the following skills:

✓ **Reading:** Understanding textbooks and scientific articles.

✓ **Writing:** Producing essays, reports, summaries, and research papers.

✓ **Listening:** Understanding lectures and taking notes.

✓ **Speaking:** Participating in discussions and giving presentations.

✓ **Research:** Finding, evaluating, and referencing reliable information.

✓ **Time management:** Organizing study schedules and meeting deadlines.

7. Academic Text

An academic text is a formal piece of writing used in educational and research settings to present, explain, analyze, or evaluate ideas and information in a clear, logical, and evidence-based manner.

Academic texts are divided into several types, namely:

1. **Descriptive Texts:** Describe facts, concepts, or phenomena.
2. **Expository Texts:** Explain ideas and provide information.
3. **Argumentative Texts:** Present claims supported by evidence and reasoning.
4. **Analytical Texts:** Examine information, compare ideas, and interpret findings.
5. **Critical Texts:** Evaluate theories, arguments, or previous research.
6. **Reflective Texts:** Discuss personal learning experiences and critically reflect on them.
7. **Research Texts:** Present original research, methods, results, and conclusions.

Most academic texts follow a basic structure:

A. Introduction

- Introduces the topic.
- Provides background information.
- States the purpose or main argument.

B. Body

- Develops the main ideas.
- Presents explanations, arguments, and evidence.
- Uses examples and references to support claims.

C. Conclusion

- Summarizes the main points.
- Restates the main argument or findings.
- Provides final remarks or recommendations when appropriate.

8. The difference between the academic context and the everyday context

The main differences between the academic context and the everyday context are:

	Academic Context	Everyday Context
Language	Formal	Informal
Purpose	Learning and research	daily communication
Evidence	Scientific evidence and references	Personal experience and opinions
Organization	Structured and systematic	Flexible and spontaneous
Vocabulary	Specialized and precise	common and simple
Style	Objective and analytical	personal and conversational

Conclusion

In conclusion, the academic context is an essential part of university education. It provides an environment for learning, research, critical thinking, and the development of intellectual skills. By understanding its characteristics and expectations, students can improve their academic performance and become more independent and responsible learners.

Example of an Academic Economic Text: Scarcity and Resource Allocation

"Economics is fundamentally the science of **scarcity**—the omnipresent condition where human wants exceed the available productive resources. Because resources such as **land, labor, and capital** are finite, every society must confront three basic economic questions: What to produce, how to produce, and for whom to produce. **Resource allocation** refers to the efficient distribution of these scarce inputs among competing alternative uses. When an economy achieves an optimal allocation where no one can be made better off without making someone else worse off, it reaches **Pareto efficiency**. Consequently, market mechanisms utilize price signals to balance **supply and demand**, serving as a decentralized system of rationing goods and services under continuous constraints".

The preceding academic economic text can be analyzed as follows:

1. **Text Type:** Expository academic economic text.

2. **Main Topic:** Scarcity and the allocation of limited economic resources.

3. **Key Economic Concepts**

- **Scarcity:** Scarcity means that resources are limited while human wants are unlimited.
- **Factors of Production:** The inputs used to produce goods and services, consisting of land, labor, capital and entrepreneurship.
- **Resource Allocation:** The process of distributing available resources among different uses.
- **Pareto Efficiency:** An economic state in which resources cannot be reallocated to make one individual better off without making another individual worse off.
- **Supply and Demand:**
 - ✓ **Supply:** Quantity of goods producers are willing to sell.
 - ✓ **Demand:** Quantity consumers are willing to buy.

Here are some essential terms commonly used in economics:

English	العربية	English	العربية
Scarcity	الندرة	Resource Allocation	تخصيص الموارد
Opportunity Cost	تكلفة الفرصة البديلة	Microeconomics	الاقتصاد الجزئي
Supply	العرض	Macroeconomics	الاقتصاد الكلي
Demand	الطلب	Utility	المنفعة
Market	السوق	Production	الإنتاج

Equilibrium	التوازن	Capital	رأس المال
Inflation	التضخم	Labor	العمل
Capitalism	الرأسمالية	Entrepreneurship	ريادة الأعمال
Socialism	الاشتراكية	Competition	المنافسة
Cost	التكلفة	Competitive advantage	الميزة التنافسية
Consumption	الاستهلاك	Income	دخل/ إيراد
Investment	الاستثمار	Wage	الأجر
Money	النقود	Budget	الميزانية
Pareto Efficiency	كفاءة باريتو	Economic growth	النمو الاقتصادي

4. Basic Economic Problems

The basic economic problems arise because resources are **limited (scarcity)** while human wants are **unlimited**. Every society—whether capitalist, socialist, or mixed—must answer three fundamental questions :

1. **What to produce?** – Deciding which goods and services should be produced.
2. **How to produce?** – Determining the best way to use resources efficiently.
3. **For whom to produce?** – Deciding who will receive and benefit from the goods and services.

5. Linguistic Features:

- Present simple tense.
- Specialized economic vocabulary.
- Formal and objective language.
- Logical connectors, such as because and consequently.

6. Text Structure:

- **Introduction:** Definition of scarcity.
- **Development:** Economic choices and resource allocation.
- **Conclusion:** The role of market mechanisms.

7. **Purpose:** To explain the economic problem of scarcity and how societies allocate limited resources.

8. **Conclusion:** The text is an expository academic text because it defines economic concepts and explains them objectively and logically.

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