Here is an opinionnaire validated by J. Charles Alderson of the Institute for English Language Education, University of Lancaster, Lancaster (UK).

Please keep in mind your experience so far and answer all the questions carefully. It will help us think of ways in which to make your course in English language more useful to you.

Tick mark the right option.

1. How useful do you think the Study Skills course has been

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>very</th>
<th>useful</th>
<th>don’t</th>
<th>not very</th>
<th>useless</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) in your studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) in your social life</td>
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2. In your studies, do you think the Study Skills course helped you

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>very much</th>
<th>a little</th>
<th>don't know</th>
<th>not much</th>
<th>not at all</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) to read articles in journals</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) to read articles in textbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) to understand lectures</td>
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<td>d) to take notes from lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) to take notes from articles and textbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) to understand seminars</td>
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<td>g) to speak in seminars</td>
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<td>h) to write reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) to write essays</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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3. **Understanding Spoken English**

Instructions: circle the number in the column which corresponds to your answer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>very</th>
<th>often</th>
<th>some</th>
<th>rarely</th>
<th>never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Do you have difficulties because of language in understanding

a) other students in seminars or group work?

b) other students when mixing socially?

c) tutors in seminars?

d) tutors in lectures?

e) unfamiliar forms of English e.g. local accents?
4. Speaking English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>very</th>
<th>often</th>
<th>sometimes</th>
<th>rarely</th>
<th>never</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you have difficulties because of language in</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a) asking other students for explanations?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) asking tutors for explanations?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) expressing your own opinions in seminars?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) explaining your opinions when they are not immediately understood?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) expressing your opinions in informal group work?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) expressing counter-arguments to points raised by other students?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) expressing counter-arguments to points raised by tutors?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. **Writing English**

Do you have difficulties because of language in

a) writing reports or essays? 1 2 3 4 5

b) making notes from books? 1 2 3 4 5

c) making notes from lectures? 1 2 3 4 5

6. **Understanding Written English**

Do you have difficulties because of language in understanding

a) the set books for your course 1 2 3 4 5

b) notes made by tutors during lectures (e.g. on blackboards or overhead projector)

c) handouts prepared by tutors 1 2 3 4 5
7. Self-assessment

a) Are you satisfied with
   i) your written work? 1 2 3 4 5
   ii) your oral performance? 1 2 3 4 5

b) Do you have difficulties
   because of
   i) uncertainty about your subject? 1 2 3 4 5
   ii) uncertainty about appropriate styles of speech or writing? 1 2 3 4 5
8. Study Methods

Does your course involve

a) lectures?

if so, do you find it difficult to learn from them?

b) group discussions with tutors?

if so, do you find it difficult to learn from them?

c) working in large groups (more than 10 students)?

if so, do you have difficulty in learning from this activity?

very often some rarely never

often times
d) working in small groups (less than 10)?

if so, do you have difficulty in learning from this activity?

e) using book-lists and references to find information?

if so, do you have difficulty in learning from this?

f) practical demonstrations?

if so, do you have difficulty in learning from this?

g) working with machines or instruments?
if so, do you have difficulty
in learning from this?

9. If you have difficulties, do you think this is because:
   i)
      a) other people speak too fast
      b) they speak too colloquially
      c) they speak with an unfamiliar accent
   ii)
      a) you want to speak but can’t think of the English
      b) you don’t want to speak in case you make a mistake
      c) you’re not sure when you should speak
      d) do you think you speak too slowly
      Other
      (plus ‘phrasal verbs’)
10. How many hours per week do you spend studying outside class?
   a) reading
   b) writing (various)
   Other

11. How many hours per week do you spend
   a) talking to other English students
   b) talking to other English people e.g. Landlady
   c) talking to students from your own country (various)
   d) talking to students from other countries in English
   e) watching T.V.
   Other

12. Which have you found most difficult?
   a) studying your subject
   b) meeting other students
   c) meeting other English students
d) speaking English  

e) understanding English  

13. How do you meet other seminars, parties, going out; (various) clubs, seminars party student society on campus/parties and deliberate contact; in break and lab; in residence, working together, clubs.

14. Has your English improved since last summer?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a lot</th>
<th>a don't</th>
<th>not</th>
<th>not at</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) listening</td>
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</table>

15. If it has improved, how has it improved?

a) by talking to English people

b) by studying in English

c) by working on difficulties with English, such as grammar
16. If you compare yourself to British students do you have more or less difficulty in meeting deadlines for work?

a) More difficulty  

b) Less difficulty  

c) About the same  

17. Do you have more or fewer problems than British students in organizing your time?

a) More problems  

b) Fewer problems  

c) About the same  

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18. Do you feel at a disadvantage compared with British students because of language?

a) Yes 

b) No 

c) Sometimes 

When? 

in seminar and lecture, especially note-taking; in lectures, seminars, essays (various) and reading take time in conversations, giving oral reports and reading books, attending class and preparing reports; listening to lectures.
19. Is there anything apart from language which you feel puts you at a
disadvantage to British students?

Yes:  
No:   

20. Has your opinion of the Study Skills course changed since September
1980? If so, how?

No:  

Yes (with details):  

21. Have you met any problems since the Study Skills course?

*NO: Yes: Taking part in seminars and writing essay;*

*NO: vocabulary - phrasal verbs*

*Yes: Yes- taking part in seminar and writing reports*

*fast speech – No*

*Yes (with details): Natural Science explanation v Social Science & popular lecture v specialist lecture: vocabulary & listening*

22. Could the course have helped you prepare for or avoid these problems?

*No: *

*No, No; Don’t know. It did help but I still have problems,*

*It did: *

*Yes; It did: it did, a little only, not a lot*

*Other: *
23. What improvements would you suggest for the Study Skills Course?

1) Practical English – Conversation, Writing, Grammar, Not note-taking.

2) Introduce actual university courses. SS should be useful.

3) Take account of student's background and needs – to distinguish teacher from ESP/EST.

4) Separate students according to levels of language.

5) Study English not Study Skills; divide students into social science and Engineering students because in Engineering - no seminar

- need to read accurately not fast
- social science notetaking is different.

6) Course should emphasize Writing and taking part in seminars, listening to lectures – tutorials.
7) More options, more time on project.

8) OK

9) I know how to study: I need to learn how to change Chinese into English
   - vocabulary idioms, fluency. Different teaching to different students.

10)? No idea