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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

MID OF SECOND SEMESTER ENGLISH EXAMS (TEST SPECIFICATIONS)

Grades 7- 8 - 9

2022-2023



Grade 7

Strands	No. Items	Standards	Item Types	Types of texts/ writing prompt	DOK Level	Score Points	Total
Listening	4	L1.1, L2.1, L2.2, L2.4	4 SR X 1 = 4	Podcast, conversation, interview	1 / 2	4	30 marks
Speaking	Oral	S1.1, S1.2, , S2.4, S5.1	CR oral	Topics covered in Modules 5 & 6	3	4	
	Language Functions		2 SR X 1 = 2	Same as in the resources	2	2	
Reading	Reading Comprehension (one text)	R1.1, R2.1, R2.2, R4.1	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 CR X 1 = 4	Website, article, advertisement	1 / 2	6	
	Vocabulary	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 FIG X ½ = 2	Words covered in the 'vocabulary sections' (Modules 5 & 6)	1 / 2	4	
Writing	Grammar	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 Cr X ½ = 2	Grammar covered in the 'grammar sections' (Modules 5 & 6)	1 / 2	4	
	Writing Prompt	W1.5, W2.1, W2.2, W2.3	1 WP	- an email accepting or refusing an invitation - an email giving news	3	6	
Number of items	26	Total Points		SR: 12 points CR: 18 points			



Grade 8

Strands	No. Items	Standards	Item Types	Types of texts/ writing prompt	DOK Level	Score Points	Total
Listening	4	L1.1, L2.1, L2.3	4 SR X 1 = 4	Conversation, talk, voice message	1 / 2	4	30 marks
Speaking	Oral	S1.1, S1.2, S2.3, S2.5, S3.1, S5.1	CR oral	Topics covered in Modules 5 & 6	3	4	
	Language Functions		2 SR X 1 = 2	Same as in the resources	2	2	
Reading	Reading Comprehension (one text)	R1.1, R2.1, R4.1	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 CR X 1 = 4	Web page, leaflet, article	1 / 2	6	
	Vocabulary	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 FIG X ½ = 2	Words covered in the 'vocabulary sections' (Modules 5 & 6)	1 / 2	4	
Writing	Grammar	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 Cr X ½ = 2	Grammar covered in the 'grammar sections' (Modules 5 & 6)	1 / 2	4	
	Writing Prompt	W1.2, W1.4, W2.1, W2.2, W2.3	1 WP	- an email asking for or responding to suggestions - a description of an event	3	6	
Number of items	26	Total Points			SR: 12 points CR: 18 points		



Grade 9

Strands		No. items	Standards	Item Types	Types of texts/Writing prompts	DOK Level	Score Points	Total
Listening		4	L1.1, L2.1, L2.2	4 SR X 1 = 4	Conversation, lecture, interview, talk	1 / 2	4	30 marks
Speaking	Oral	1	S1.1, S2.3, S2.4, S2.5. S5.1	CR oral	Topics covered in Modules 6 & 7	3	4	
	Language Functions	2		2 SR X 1 = 2	Same as in the resources	2	2	
Reading	Reading Comprehension (one text)	6	R1.1, R2.1, R2.2, R4.1	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 CR X 1 = 4	Article, advertisement, magazine interview	1 / 2	6	
	Vocabulary	6	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 FIG X ½ = 2	Words covered in the 'vocabulary sections' (Modules 6 & 7)	1 / 2	4	
Writing	Grammar	6	N / A	2 SR X 1 = 2 4 Cr X ½ = 2	Grammar covered in the 'grammar sections' (Modules 6 & 7)	1 / 2	4	
	Writing Prompt	1	W1.5. W1.6, W2.1, W2.2, W2.3	1 WP	- a description of a process - a covering letter	3	6	
Total number of items		26	Total Points			SR: 12 points CR: 18 points		



General Remarks: Tests must be built on the test specifications.

- The test should address the key standards stated in the modules covered in the 2nd semester overviews.
(Grades 7 & 8: modules (5 & 6) - Grade 9: modules (6 & 7))
- Question types allowed are SR (selected response) and CR (constructed response).
- DOK levels must be maintained as prescribed in the specification charts.
- Language Functions, Vocabulary & Grammar items should simulate the items of the textbooks.
- Enrichment materials are not to be included in the test.
- Copying and pasting from the resource ([Portal to English](#)), or the [Test CD](#) into the test is Not Acceptable.

Listening Section

- Listening items should cover at least TWO standards, including the one on the main idea (L1.1).
- Students should listen to the audio TWICE.
- The audio must be around 2 minutes long.
- The listening audio must be clear with a moderate pace.
- Allow Students some time (2 to 3 minutes) to read the items before they start listening.
- Listening source / hyperlink must be mentioned in the answer key.

Speaking Section

- Speaking items should be taken from the language functions handled in the target modules.
- The oral Exam must be assessed according to the speaking rubric.



Reading_Section:

- Reading items should cover at least THREE standards, including the one on the main idea (R1.1).
- Don't penalize the student's response in the reading CR items section for any of the writing mechanics (structure, spelling or punctuation).
- CR items in reading section should use only Wh-question words (when-where-what-who-how-why-which) and should ask for information stated (DOK 1) or inferred from the text (DOK 2).
- The word count of the text should be as follows: G.7 (150 – 200) G.8 (200-250) G.9 (250-300).
- Vocabulary items should be taken from the 'vocabulary sections' handled in the target modules.

Writing Section

- Grammar items should be taken from the key topics handled in the target modules.
- Each CR grammar item should have 2 requirements or could be divided into 2 sub items each scored ½ .
- Students SHOULD organize their responses in separate paragraphs (2 - 3 short paragraphs): Students will be penalized for NOT using PRAGRAPHING.
- Students are given 2 writing prompts to choose only one. (Topics handled in Modules 5 & 6 (for grades 7 & 8), and modules 6 & 7 (for grade 9)
- Prompts must not be identical to the ones in the resources, though they must be of the same type.
- Grading of writing response must be based on the writing rubric provided.



Test Style:

- The font-size must be Calibri 14 in all test questions.
- Closely follow the test template issued by the English Supervision Department Office for this purpose.
- Leave enough space between the items. (4 to 5 items on each page).
- The SR items should have 4 choices, placed vertically.
- The score for each section should be placed on the student's test paper.
- If the choices are single words with acute difference in length, they are organized lengthwise. If not; alphabetically.

Abbreviation Key

SR	Selected response
CR	Constructed response
FIG	Fill in the gaps
WP	Writing prompt
DOK	Depth of Knowledge