

(SY03)

THE UNIFIED EXAMINATION
MALAYSIAN INDEPENDENT CHINESE SECONDARY SCHOOLS
SENIOR MIDDLE LEVEL
ENGLISH LANGUAGE SYLLABUS

I Test Description

The UEC Senior level English Language examination is a norm-referenced test, which is intended to measure candidates' use of language skills and language knowledge. It is specifically designed for Senior Middle Three candidates. The test results are used as a main reference for tertiary institutions to make selection and placement decisions.

II Test Objectives

1. Language Skills

1.1 Reading

Generally, it is to assess candidates' use of reading skills to read and understand passages. Specifically, it is to assess the candidates' ability of:

- 1.1.1 understanding and retrieving information from a passage.
- 1.1.2 using contextual clues to find meaning.
- 1.1.3 understanding logical relationships within and between sentences and paragraphs.
- 1.1.4 discerning main ideas and supporting details of a passage.
- 1.1.5 determining relevance.
- 1.1.6 predicting outcomes / making hypotheses / forming conclusions.
- 1.1.7 identifying the purpose of a passage.
- 1.1.8 making an inference from a passage.

1.2 Writing

Generally, it is to assess candidates' use of writing skills to write in different text forms for different audiences and various purposes. Specifically, it is to assess the candidates' ability of:

- 1.2.1 constructing structurally and grammatically correct sentences.
- 1.2.2 developing coherent and cohesive paragraphs using correct discourse markers, language styles and formats.
- 1.2.3 developing thesis statement and topic sentences effectively.
- 1.2.4 constructing a well-structured essay.
- 1.2.5 presenting a viewpoint critically by giving mature and reasonable justifications.
- 1.2.6 writing a summary.

2. Language Knowledge

To assess candidates' understanding and application of grammar structure and usage.

III Test Structure

The examination is administered on paper that requires the candidates to perform a set of skills. The structure of the examination is as follows:

This examination comprises two papers.

Paper 1: Writing (50%) Time allocated: 100 minutes

Section A: Summary Writing (15%)

A passage of about 450 words will be provided. Candidates are required to read the passage and respond in not longer than 150 words.

Section B: Essay Writing (35%)

Candidates are to choose one out of five topics and write the essay in not less than 350 words. The topics may cover the following modes of writing: factual, opinion, persuasive, cause and effect, compare and contrast.

Paper 2: Reading and Language Use (50%) Time allocated: 80 minutes

Section A: Reading (30%)

Part I : Critical Reading (10%)

Five short extracts of 90-120 words with five multiple-choice questions will be provided. Questions require candidates to identify themes, main ideas and purposes.

Part II : Vocabulary (10%)

A passage of 300-350 words or a few passages of 150-250 words with ten multiple-choice questions will be provided. The passage(s) may either be original or extracts taken from newspapers, magazines or books.

Part III: Comprehension (10%)

A passage of 500-700 words with ten multiple-choice questions will be provided. The passage may either be original or extracts taken from newspapers, magazines or books.

Section B: Language Use (20%)

Part I : Error Identification (10%)

Candidates are to identify the error in each sentence. Ten multiple-choice questions will be provided.

Part II : Word Forms (10%)

A passage with ten blanks will be provided. Candidates are to fill in the ten blanks with one word by changing the words within brackets to the correct form.

IV Test Content

1. Context

- 1.1 Self development
- 1.2 Social issues
- 1.3 Environment
- 1.4 Health and hygiene
- 1.5 Science and technology
- 1.6 Lifestyles

2. Text Type

- 2.1 Articles and Reports
- 2.2 Conversations, Dialogues and Interviews
- 2.3 Descriptions of People, Things, Places, Scenes
- 2.4 Facts and Opinions
- 2.5 Journals and Diaries
- 2.6 Letters
- 2.7 Messages
- 2.8 Processes and Procedures
- 2.9 Speeches and Talks
- 2.10 Narratives

3. Vocabulary

Words or phrases dealing with topics / themes / context of:

- 3.1 Self Development
- 3.2 Social Issues
- 3.3 Environment
- 3.4 Health and Hygiene
- 3.5 Science and Technology
- 3.6 Lifestyles

4. Grammar

- 4.1 Nouns
 - 4.1.1 Countable and Uncountable Nouns
 - 4.1.2 Collective Nouns
- 4.2 Pronouns
 - 4.2.1 Subject Pronouns and Object Pronouns
 - 4.2.2 Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns
 - 4.2.3 Reflexive Pronouns
 - 4.2.4 Possessive Nouns
 - 4.2.5 Relative Pronouns
 - 4.2.6 Interrogative Pronouns
 - 4.2.7 Indefinite Pronouns

- 4.3 Adjectives and Comparison of Adjectives
- 4.4 Adverbs
 - 4.4.1 Adverbs of Manner
 - 4.4.2 Adverbs of Frequency
 - 4.4.3 Adverbs of Time
 - 4.4.4 Adverbs of Degree
 - 4.4.5 Adverbs of Place
 - 4.4.6 Comparison of Adverbs
- 4.5 Prepositions
 - 4.5.1 Prepositions of Place
 - 4.5.2 Prepositions of Time
 - 4.5.3 Prepositions of Direction
- 4.6 Conjunctions
 - 4.6.1 Coordinating Conjunctions
 - 4.6.2 Subordinating Conjunctions
 - 4.6.3 Correlative Conjunctions
- 4.7 Verbs
 - 4.7.1 Action Verbs and Verbs-to-be
 - 4.7.2 Subject-verb Agreement
 - 4.7.3 Tenses
 - 4.7.3.1 The Simple Present Tense
 - 4.7.3.2 The Present Continuous Tense
 - 4.7.3.3 The Simple Past Tense
 - 4.7.3.4 The Past Continuous Tense
 - 4.7.3.5 The Simple Future Tense
 - 4.7.3.6 The Future Continuous Tense
 - 4.7.3.7 The Present Perfect Tense
 - 4.7.3.8 The Past Perfect Tense
 - 4.7.3.9 The Future Perfect Tense
 - 4.7.3.10 The Present Perfect Continuous Tense
 - 4.7.3.11 Active and Passive Voice
- 4.8 Infinitives and Gerunds
- 4.9 The Participles
 - 4.9.1 Present Participles
 - 4.9.2 Past Participles
- 4.10 The Conditional Tenses
- 4.11 Determiners
- 4.12 Modals

- 4.13 Articles
 - 4.13.1 A, An, The
 - 4.13.2 Zero Articles
- 4.14 Direct and Indirect Speech
- 4.15 Question Tags
- 4.16 Negative Form and Interrogative Form
- 4.17 Punctuations
- 4.18 Phrases and Clauses
 - 4.18.1 Adjectival
 - 4.18.2 Adverbial
 - 4.18.3 Noun
- 4.19 Sentence Types
 - 4.19.1 Simple Sentences
 - 4.19.2 Compound Sentences
 - 4.19.3 Complex Sentences
- 4.20 Phrasal Verbs
- 4.21 Interjections

N.B. The textbooks *English* (Senior Middle 1, 2 and 3) compiled by the Curriculum Department of the Malaysian Independent Chinese Secondary Schools (MICSS) Working Committee will be used as the main reference for the examination.