

(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.