

PSLE

FOUNDATION ENGLISH

Implemented from the Year of Examination 2015

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PURPOSE OF EXAMINATION

The purpose of the examination is to assess the candidates' attainment in Foundation English based on the Learning Outcomes stated in the *English Language Syllabus 2010: Primary (Foundation) & Secondary (Normal [Technical])*. The Learning Outcomes form the basis for the assessment objectives listed on page 3.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

In the Foundation English examination, candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

In Paper 1 (Writing)

- AO1 write to suit purpose, audience and context in a way that is clear and effective
- AO2 use appropriate register and tone in a variety of texts
- AO3 generate and select relevant ideas, organising and expressing them in a coherent and cohesive manner
- AO4 use correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- AO5 use vocabulary appropriately

In Paper 2 (Language Use and Comprehension)

- AO1 demonstrate comprehension of a range of texts at the literal and inferential levels
- AO2 draw conclusions by reading and/or viewing closely and critically
- AO3 show understanding of how contextual use of lexical and grammatical items shapes meaning
- AO4 demonstrate the correct use of grammar, spelling and punctuation, and the appropriate use of vocabulary in given contexts

In Paper 3 (Listening Comprehension)

- AO1 demonstrate understanding of the content of a variety of spoken texts at the literal and inferential levels
- AO2 identify key messages, main ideas and details in a variety of spoken texts
- AO3 infer and draw conclusions by listening critically

In Paper 4 (Oral Communication)

- AO1 read with good pronunciation, clear articulation and appropriate intonation in order to convey the information, ideas and feelings in a passage
- AO2 produce a well-paced, fluent reading of a passage
- AO3 express their personal opinions, ideas and experiences clearly and effectively in conversing with the examiner
- AO4 speak fluently and with grammatical accuracy, using appropriate vocabulary and structures

EXAMINATION FORMAT

Candidates will be assessed in the following areas:

PAPER	COMPONENT	ITEM TYPE	MARKS	WEIGHTING	DURATION
1	Situational Writing	OE	40	26.7%	1 h 10 min
	----- Continuous Writing	OE			
2	Language Use and Comprehension	OE / MCQ	60	40%	1 h 20 min
3	Listening Comprehension	MCQ	20	13.3%	About 35 min
4	Oral Communication	OE	30	20%	About 10 min (5 min preparation time; about 5 min examination time)
Total			150	100%	

Paper 1 (Writing)

Part 1 (Situational Writing): Candidates will be required to write a short functional piece (e.g. a letter or an email) to suit the purpose, audience and context of a given situation.

Part 2 (Continuous Writing): Candidates will be required to write a composition of at least 120 words in continuous prose based on a series of pictures.

Paper 2 (Language Use and Comprehension)

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to use language correctly and to comprehend visual and textual information.

Paper 3 (Listening Comprehension)

This paper comprises 20 multiple-choice questions which test candidates' ability to understand spoken English. Graphic representations will be used for the first six items. The texts may be in the form of announcements, advertisements, instructions, explanations, conversations, speeches and stories. Each text will be read twice.

Paper 4 (Oral Communication)

For Reading Aloud, candidates are assessed on their ability to pronounce and articulate words clearly, as well as their ability to read fluently with appropriate expression and rhythm. For Stimulus-based Conversation, candidates are assessed on their ability to give a personal response to a visual stimulus and engage in a conversation on a relevant topic.

TABLE OF SPECIFICATIONS

PAPER	COMPONENT	ITEM TYPE	NO. OF ITEMS	MARKS	WEIGHTING
1 (Writing)	Situational Writing	OE	1	10	26.7%
	Continuous Writing	OE	1	30	
2 (Language Use and Comprehension)	Booklet A: Grammar	MCQ	8	8	40%
	Punctuation	MCQ	2	2	
	Vocabulary	MCQ	5	5	
	Comprehension (Visual Text)	MCQ	5	5	
	Booklet B: Form Filling	OE	5	5	
	Editing for Grammar	OE	6	6	
	Editing for Spelling	OE	6	6	
	Comprehension (Completion of Sentences)	OE	5	5	
	Synthesis	OE	3	3	
	Comprehension Cloze	OE	5	5	
	Comprehension: (Passages A and B)	OE	7	10	
3 (Listening Comprehension)	Listening Comprehension	MCQ	20	20	13.3%
4 (Oral Communication)	Reading Aloud	OE	1 passage	10	20%
	Stimulus-based Conversation	OE	1 visual stimulus	20	
			Total	150	100%

Legend:

MCQ Multiple-choice questions

OE Open-ended question