



25/09/2021



Dear High School English Coordinators and Teachers,

The purpose of this letter is to further clarify the letter sent to high-school principals on 25/8/21 and as such serves as the definitive source of information regarding the Bagrut program 2021-2022 (See also [Portal for more information, curriculum and Bagrut handbooks](#)).

English as a school discipline forms the basis for quality employment, academic studies, tourism, personal development and in addition serves as a catalyst for social mobility. English teachers are vital in helping our students reach these goals through instruction, practice and the assessment of all four English skills.

This letter addresses the 2021-2022 testing program, known in Hebrew as the 'mikud', in particular the changes to the oral proficiency test and the focus on vocabulary.

Please note for the 'mikud' 2021-22:

1. Chapters and materials should not be "cut". Nevertheless, for the purpose of the 'mikud', you may teach one short story less in the literature program in the 12th grade.
2. For 2021-22 no additional lexical items have been added to the band 3 list for the E pilot (16471). See details below in the section on Bagrut Module E.

Language learning requirements and principles:

1. Language learning concentrates on skills and vocabulary instruction. The school syllabus for all ages and levels must include a rich exposure to language, reinforcement and practice of **all** four skills and explicit, incremental teaching of vocabulary.
2. Acquiring oral proficiency requires a high level of self-regulation, confidence and extensive practice and therefore requires explicit teaching at all levels.
3. There is an emphasis on vocabulary learning and assessment. By the end of the 12th grade, the curriculum defines the number of lexical items the students should know either receptively and/or productively (5,400 items for 5 points; 4,300 for 4 pts, and 3,400 for 3 pts)
4. Optimal learning requires a learning effort, increased exposure and finally exam preparation. Therefore, it is highly recommended to spread the learning over the entire week and over the three years of teaching English in high school, using a variety of teaching materials tailored to all student populations.

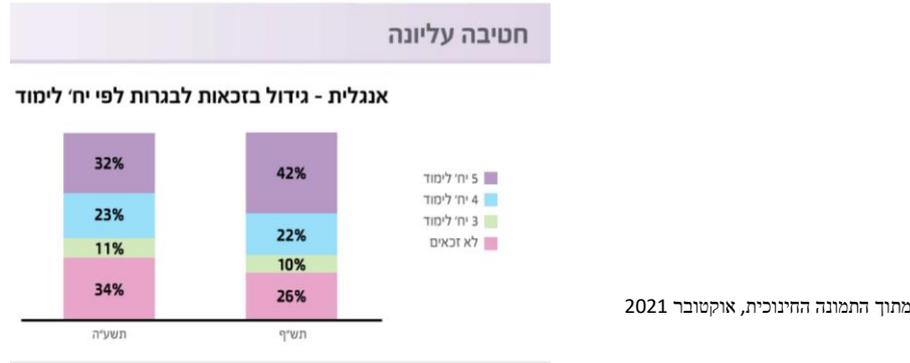
Further details regarding the guiding principles, recommendations for teaching methods and materials as well as the 'mikud' can be found on this official [page on לומדים בביטחון](#). Additionally, please see the [examination program for the written English matriculation exams](#) 2021-2022 for all levels and modules.



Accomplishments:

The Ministry of Education has recently published Bagrut data and statistics from 2020 (תש"ף). The data displays encouraging results for English. For example, there is a constant increase in the number of students taking the 5-point exam (from 32% in 2016 to 41.5% in 2020). In addition, there has been an increase in the number of students who have taken the Bagrut in English and fewer 3 pointers.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the English teacher community for these impressive results. The joint efforts of English teachers, counselors and inspectors have led to a significant development of English teaching in Israel. Over the past five years, we have put significant efforts in encouraging and practicing speaking skills and learning vocabulary. This could not have happened without your dedication and commitment to students' success. With your professionalism and hard work, we have managed to keep up the excellent results even despite the Covid crises of summer 2020. Your ability to continue pursuing our goals under difficult times is both admirable and appreciated.



COBE- Computerized Bagrut Exam for 4 and 5-point students

As you know, the oral component of the Bagrut was computerized for all 4 and 5-point students in the 2020-2021 school year. This move has increased validity, transparency and reliability in the component that evaluates oral proficiency.

It is highly important that schools are well prepared for the implementation of the computerized oral exams. All details regarding guidelines and division of roles between English coordinator and the computer coordinator appear on the [Portal](#). You may also be in touch with your district English inspector for further support.

As with all skills, the more practice the better. In order for students to develop the necessary vocabulary skills, language accuracy and sense of security in their verbal ability, extended practice time is required throughout high-school for ALL students for 3 years.

* Therefore, oral proficiency testing (the COBE) should be conducted during the 12th grade. Thus,

- 4 and 5-points students, including "native speakers", will be eligible for oral testing only during the 12th grade (winter, summer and Moed bet dates). They will NOT be able to take the exam in the 11th grade, and registration will be blocked. **This policy is effective**



immediately for 4 pointers and will be implemented next year, תשפ"ג, for 5 pointers and native speakers.

- A student will now be able to take the COBE 3 times; during the winter/summer and during Moed bet. The summer Moed can serve as the Moed Bet for the winter. (Students who take the winter test can in fact take the test three times).
- Dates for COBE 2021-22 can be found on the portal.
- As of this school year, the COBE in the winter 2021 will be open for second chance students (נבחני משנה) as for all external tests (The highest grade counts).
- As of this year, 2021-2022, 10th grade 3-pointers too will begin to be tested orally via the computer when they are in the 12th grade (2024). Additional details, information regarding teacher conferences and examples will be announced in the coming months. The content of the exam will include a listening component, a structured interview on pre-prepared topics and description of pictures. This year should be devoted to practice and creating oral production opportunities for students.

Testing Special Ed. students by a teacher-tester (07):

Special education students in special education schools and in special education classes, or those included in regular classes, have the right to be tested in person. As in the past (pre Covid-19), please register your students for the appropriate exam, and write to your district English inspector with a list (names and ID numbers of all the 4 and 5-point students who require a face-to-face teacher-tester. Your inspector will then appoint a teacher to test your students. This is a reciprocal system, whereby all teachers who require testers for their students will serve as testers for other students in the same city/region.

Note test code number (semel sheelon):

4-point oral exam with a human tester: 16485

5-point oral exam with human tester: 016585

The English Inspectorate recognizes the need for teacher support in this process. Therefore, during the year we hold regional conferences, training in teacher communities and courses for credit (gmul), group meetings and school support when and where needed. For more information follow the Portal- COBE page or be in touch with your district English inspector.

Bagrut module E and vocabulary learning:

- The 16471 E test will be compulsory for 11th grade students who take module E in summer תשפ"ג 2023, and for 12th graders who take module E in summer 2024 תשפ"ד.
- As of summer Moed 2024, the 16481 test will be abolished and replaced by the 16471E. The COBE will include a listening component in place of the listening comprehension in 016481. See existing model on the ITEST site by Matach <https://itest.cet.ac.il/>.



The 16471 E module texts use learned vocabulary (according to the published lists), with up to ten words glossed. No dictionary (electronic or book) is allowed to be used during the test.

With the focus on expanding the study of vocabulary there will be a phased introduction of the vocabulary of 4-point Band 3 Core 1. This band has 900 words and they will be divided into four lists:

list A, B, C, and D – of 225 words each. Over the years 2023-2024, they will be introduced into 16471 E bagrut exam according to the schedule below.

(It should be noted by teachers who are already preparing students for the pilot 16471 E that List A will include all the Band 3 core 1 words previously published for this test).

The lists will be announced in the near future to allow publishers to prepare practice materials and teachers to prepare their students.

	First Bagrut Moed in which the list will be used
List A	Winter 2023
List B	Summer 2023
List C	Winter 2024
List D	Summer 2024

Transition between the different levels of study-COBE and internal literature log (Only when transition between levels is necessary):

What the change is	What needs to be done	
<p>-Transition from 5-point literature log (16583) to 4-point literature log (16483)</p> <p>-Transition from 5-point COBE (16587, 16586) to a 4-point COBE (16487, 16486)</p>	Add 10 points	Forward a request through the school to the testing department (מרכז מידע בחינות).
<p>-Transition from 4-point COBE (16487, 16486) to 5-point COBE (16587, 16586)</p>	Deduct 10 points	Forward a request through the school to the testing department (מרכז מידע בחינות).
<p>-Transition from 4-point literature log (16483) to 5-point literature log (16583)</p>	Students MUST complete the literature program for the 5-points. Deduct 10 points if the log is mostly done on a 4 point level	Report the grade on the Shiluvit (like any other internal grade)



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<p>Transition from 3-points to 4-points</p>	<p>Student must: complete the literature program upgrade their project and take the COBE</p>	<p>-Transition from 3-points to 4-points</p>
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- It should be noted that random sampling of the literature logs by the district inspectors is carried out once a year to ensure the literature program is taught and assessed according to the guidelines of internal Bagrut (alternatives in assessment).

Yet again, it is important to emphasize that teaching English is a process of building language skills among students and in no way should the years of teaching OR the number of teaching hours be **reduced under any circumstances** in an attempt to complete the matriculation examination program before the 12th grade. The English literature program (texts and extensive reading) is also designed for the three years of high school for 4-5 pointers and therefore, the English team must

prepare a teaching program that addresses the various learning needs, including a significant effort to raise the level of students in English to the highest possible level (through vocabulary learning, for example).

Aiming at opening many doors in the future for academic studies and employment for students is worth the effort!

We can do it!

Wishing us all a healthy and productive school year,

Dr. Tziona Levi

Chief inspector, English Language Education

Copies:

Dr. Miri Shlissel, Senior Director of Pedagogical Secretariat.

David Gal, Senior Director of testing department

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District English inspectors

National counselors