

November 1, 2023

Dear High School English Coordinators and Teachers,

I wish to begin by sending you all a warm hug during these trying times. I am praying for you and your family's safety. I am proud of the English teachers. I hear from so many about their efforts to support students in various ways in the attempt to get them back to a routine of learning. The [English inspectors](#), [national counselors](#), and myself are all available for anything we can assist you with.

As a result of the "Iron Swords" war that has been imposed upon us, the Ministry of Education with the English inspectorate has decided to modify the Matriculation testing program to allow for accommodations in teaching and learning while preparing for both the internal and external Bagrut assessment. These are the areas of focus:

- The postponement of the [winter](#) and [summer](#) exams.
- Mikud for this year's Bagrut tests. See the adjustments below.
- Special emphasis and instructions can be found on the [English portal](#), and the [Distance Learning in Times of Crisis section](#), where relevant teaching and learning materials are available.

We are still in times of distance learning and uncertainty and even when the war is over, teachers and students will still bear the pain and hardships of their traumatic experiences. Thus, we must do our utmost as educators to assure that our Bagrut-oriented teaching takes place in a pleasant, yet engaging atmosphere. It is recommended to incorporate methodical breaks in the lesson and offer thinking and reflection questions.

The media and social networks, especially during the war, constantly provide us with content that may be sensitively integrated into the teaching materials so our students learn English that is relevant to reality and to their world. There are resources such as: opinion articles, rhetorical means for sharpening messages and arguments, inspiring speeches, and meaningful songs.

Having said that, it is also important that content is selected carefully and in a sensitive manner according to the age level and the emotional state of the students. As you well know, much of this content may contain harsh statements, inflammatory positions or graphic descriptions. Avoid using materials that may cause unexpected reactions or uncomfortable feelings. Also consider whether engaging students in public diplomacy without proper preparation, is suitable. Meanwhile, in these difficult

times, students might express anxiety and distress. Do not hesitate to consult available professionals at any time.

Additionally, encouraging active learning strengthens resilience and contributes to meaningful learning. Therefore, it is highly recommended to integrate motivating and engaging activities into the material being studied: for example, writing a letter with an authentic purpose to a real person such as a letter to the UN Secretary-General for the release of the kidnapped children.

In moments of crisis, social meetings and dialoguing with peers are crucial for students' wellbeing. Therefore, it is useful to combine group work in your teaching plans keeping the frontal component relatively short, while the remainder of the lesson focuses on individuals working with the teacher or in small groups.

Feel free to turn to your English inspector and counselor for pedagogical advice and innovative teaching methodology.

The following provides the details of the modifications for 2024 English Bagrut tests:

Literature Program (Relevant to 12th graders)

Updated November 5, 2023

Module	Regular requirements	Mikud for 2024 - 12th graders	
Module B (16383)	2 short stories 1 poem 2 book reports	1 short story 1 poem 1 book report	2 literary pieces
Module D (16483)	3 short stories 3 poems 4 book reports	2 short stories 2 poems 3 book reports	4 literary pieces
Module F (16583)	1 play/novel 3 short stories 2 poems 4 book reports	Option 1) 2 short stories 2 poems 3 book reports	4 literary pieces
		Option 2) 1 play or novel 1 short story 1 poem 3 book reports	3 literary pieces

*See appendix for calculation of internal literature grade.

Module C (16382) - The number of possible writing topics has been reduced to 7(out of 19) ([see full list on the portal](#)).

Module E (16471) - Will NOT include list D from Band 3 Core I. List C of Band 3 CORE I has been adjusted considerably for this year. ([see the list on the portal](#)).

BOOST (16386) - Implementation of the BOOST as compulsory has been postponed to Winter Moed of next year (2025). The BOOST will remain a pilot for the winter and summer 2024. It is recommended to pilot the BOOST with your students and receive full support. For more details, contact Aharona Gvaryahu at gvaryahu@gmail.com 054-2818878.

Several points to be noted:

1. **The “old” Module E (016481)** can ONLY be taken by 'mishne' students this year, winter and summer mo'adim of 2024. This test will be abolished after summer 2024.
2. **Module E (16471)** focuses on learned vocabulary (according to the bands) and is done without the use of a dictionary during the test. In 2024, Module E was supposed to include words from [Band 1](#), [Band 2](#) and lists A,B,C from CORE I of [Band 3](#). In the summer list D was supposed to be included.

For your convenience, Here is the division of Band 3, Core I to the 4 word lists again:

[List A](#) , [List B](#) , [List C](#). [List D](#)

For further information about Module E, you may contact Shoshi Harris: shoshi133@gmail.com

3. ALL teachers who prepare students for Bagrut and who report the internal literature grades OR test special education students orally MUST be registered on the [Experts' Site](#) and approved as testers (בוחן+ בוחן הערכה חלופית). If you are not registered, please do so ASAP. The process includes uploading your paperwork: teaching certificate, recommendation from your principal and the list of courses you completed (השתלמויות) in the last two years. **Please note that unlike in previous years, your school principal can approve your בוחן status on the Expert site. To do that, your אישור מנהל מוסד רכז בגרויות should upload**

4. **Testing special ed. students (07)**

Students in special education schools and in special education classes, or those included in regular classes, may be tested in a face-to-face examination by a teacher in school, who is NOT the student's English teacher at the time of the exam. This is true for ALL of the Bagrut modules: A,C,E,G and the Oral Bagrut modules : 016485 and 016585.

Special education 4 and 5-point students should be encouraged to do the COBE if they can.

For further questions related to special ed. students, you may contact Aharona Gvaryahu at gvaryahu@gmail.com 054-2818878

New COBE Dates for this school year:

- The 2023 winter COBE was postponed to February 2024. [See the portal for details.](#)
- Dates for the 2024 summer COBE and for Moed Bet will be published later this year.

Please remember:

- 3 and 4 point students will not be permitted to take the oral test in the 11th grade. The following tests will be blocked in the winter and summer of the 11th grade in order to allow for more practice time as oral skills require: 016385, 016485, 016486.
- Similar to last year, there are NO specific and designated dates for the COBE simulations available from November 15. Practice tests are available via the I-Test program. It cannot be reiterated enough how important it is for your students to have the opportunity to practice using the iTEST program so that they become familiar with the COBE and the technological elements that are required. This will also prevent confusion and surprises on the day of the exam.

For further questions related to the COBE, you may contact Ellyn Marciano at ellynmarc@gmail.com

Accommodations for new immigrants (עולים חדשים) in their English Bagrut Exams
(According to General Director's Bulletin)

- New Olim are permitted to use an English-mother tongue or mother tongue-English electronic dictionary.
- Spelling errors are ignored on Module C for 3 and 4 pointers.
- Students of all levels may be tested with the accommodation of "Hashmaat Sheelon Habechina" which means they may "listen" to the exam with a chip or on the I-test.
- 10 additional points are added to the FINAL Bagrut grade **by the testing department and NOT by the school**, provided the student does NOT come from an English speaking country.

Wishing you all strength in these difficult times.

Dr. Tziona Levi
Chief inspector, English Language Education
Director of the Department of Languages

CCs:

Dr. Tali Yaniv, Senior Director, Office of Pedagogical Affairs
David Gal, Senior Director, the Testing Department
District English inspectors
National counselors

Appendix:

Calculation of internal literature grade:

3 points ([excel to calculate grade](#))

- 1 summative 30%
- 1 post 50%
- 1 book 20%

4 points ([excel to calculate grade](#))

- 2 summative assessments 40%
- 4 post reading or bridging 40%
- 3 books 20%

5 points ([excel to calculate grade](#) – note 2 tabs available depending on option)

Option 1

- 2 summative assessments 40%
- 4 post reading or bridging 40%
- 3 books 20%

Option 2

- 2 summative assessments 40%
- 3 post reading or bridging 40%
- 3 books 20%