



Sunday, April 26, 2020

יום ראשון, ב' אייר תש"פ

UPDATED LETTER

Dear devoted members of the English teaching community who are preparing 11th and 12th graders for the 2020 matriculation (Bagrut) exams,

Hello to you all.

English teachers have adapted and transitioned wonderfully from our daily routine to the Corona routine. Tremendous credit for this is due to every one of you. You concentrated your efforts of continuing to teach your students, within the personal complexity and challenges that this situation has created for each of us.

The Corona will pass. That is clear. Yet, there are many uncertainties ahead of us. First, we do not know when that day will come. Second, the conditions we will be facing on that day are unknown. Third, we do not know how long it will take until we can return to a routine.

The new reality we are now confronting offers opportunities to operate and reach out to students in optimistic, creative, and novel ways. We can continue to do so as we return to our normal and binding routine as professional English teachers.

I would like to relate to the recent announcements concerning the Bagrut in light of these uncertainties and opportunities.

Some clarifications:

1. Bagrut exams will take place on the dates as published. The modules will be spread out over three dates in one week. Testing for each level will take place on a different day. There will be a first and second "moed".
2. 12th graders can take two modules in order to complete their Bagrut requirements or to improve one module from the winter. Each module will take place on a different day.

3. The written project is still 30% in the calculation of the annual school grade for either modules A or C for 3 point students; C or E for 4 point students; E or G for 5 point students.

4. 11th graders who have prepared to take two modules in order to complete their Bagrut in English (e.g. gifted, Native Speakers), can do so. Each module will take place on a different day.

5. To date, COBE summer exams have been cancelled. Hence, grades are based on internal assessment. This assessment must reflect the learning process and oral production involved in preparing students for the oral proficiency exam. The type of assessments used should provide valid and reliable grades. (See publications about calibration and averaging grades according to the general performance of a school in English so that the grading process will suit the required standard of the "Malag" for academic admission to higher education).

6. Teachers of all levels, 3, 4 and 5 points can plan to begin oral testing right after the spring holidays in order to determine a final score. **It should be noted that this year the annual grade for the Oral Exam and the final grade are the same.** Therefore, one grade only is necessary which is reported through the school system. **If the grade was already submitted in March, there is no need to resubmit and the reporting process of the English Bagrut speaking component is considered completed. Changes to the reported grade will not be permitted.**

7. **Students are not meant to be taking the speaking test in the 11th grade, mainly because this is a skill that needs ample opportunities to practice. Currently, if schools did not sign up students for this test until March, they will not be able to do so. The system is blocked.**

8. If still necessary, oral testing **can** be done on Zoom or WhatsApp platforms, and include all parts of the COBE exam. Teachers can send students recorded questions for parts A, B and C together with a clip and written prompts (see these slides for more ideas). **Assessment should be based on the COBE marking rubrics.**

9. The final submission date for both the oral grades and the literature log has been postponed until **23/7/20**.

10. **Regarding a second opportunity for those students who have already taken the COBE this year in the winter and received lower grades than anticipated for any reason, a second test will not occur. To ensure equality and provide students who were tested in December and February the same opportunity as students who will be tested internally in the summer, it has been decided to automatically correct the grade for all students who took the COBE (16587, 16586) as follows: A. for students whose matriculation score is lower than the annual grade, the annual grade will be counted. B. Students whose matriculation**

score is higher than the annual grade will get the average calculation between the two, as usual.

11. The testing rubrics for the oral element of the Bagrut/Matriculation exam (20%) for students considered 07 are the same as they have been in the past- based on the project and interview. Many of these students can be tested via zoom, skype and WhatsApp. **The tester can be the classroom teacher-tester** (For further questions on this matter you may contact Aharona Gvaryahu 054-2818878). For the written modules, students with learning disabilities and 07 students will get the same accommodations as they have been until now. No change has been implemented regarding this.

12. The Diplomacy major grades in the 12th grade will be given based on internal assessment. (For further details please contact Sassie Yona yosassie@gmail.com).

13. Information regarding external students will be published on the Testing Department site <https://edu.gov.il/minhalpedagogy/exams/Pages/hp.aspx>.

In spirit of the upcoming holidays, I wish you all the best and good health,
Tziona

Dr. Tziona Levi
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