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MAKTABGACHA VA MAKTAB TA’LIMI VAZIRLIGI
PEDAGOGIK MAHORAT VA XALQARO BAHOLASH
ILMIY-AMALIY MARKAZI**

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MILLIY DASTURIGA 10-SINF O‘QUVCHILARINI TANLAB OLISHDA
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SPETSIFIKATSIYASI**

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SPECIFICATION OF EXAMINATION MATERIALS IN ENGLISH FOR THE SELECTION OF 10TH-GRADE STUDENTS FOR THE “PRESIDENT'S TALENTED CHILDREN” NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

This specification outlines the requirements for the content, scope, types, formats, assessment criteria, and administration procedures of test items used to assess the English language knowledge, skills, and competencies of candidates who have submitted applications for admission to grade 10 of the general secondary schools.

I. General principles

The purpose of the assessment is to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of candidates' knowledge, skills, and competencies in the English language based on the learning objectives defined in the current curricula. To ensure that admission decisions to grade 10 of the “President’s Talented Children” national program are evidence-based and valid, the assessment is conducted in accordance with the principles of validity, reliability, fairness, and transparency.

II. Regulatory framework

1. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-86 dated May 15, 2025, “On measures to implement the ‘President’s Talented Children’ initiative.”
2. Current Mathematics curriculum for grades 7-8-9 of general secondary education.

III. Assessment Scope and Time Allocation

The entrance examination for admission to grade 10 of the “President’s Talented Children” national program is conducted in two stages. In the first stage, a total of 40 closed-ended test items are administered to assess candidates’ English language proficiency, and 55 minutes are allocated for completion.

The second stage of the examination is administered by Cambridge Assessment Press, which is responsible for the content of the test.

The distribution of the content domains, as well as the knowledge, skills, and competencies assessed in the first-stage test items, is presented in the tables below.

Subject area	Construct	# of questions
	1. Vocabulary	10
<i>Basic lexical meaning</i>	Recognition and interpretation of the most common meanings of high-frequency words and fixed expressions as they occur in short, familiar contexts, including both concrete and abstract vocabulary used in everyday communication.	2

<i>Context-dependent meaning</i>	Accurate identification of the intended meaning of a word or phrase through interpretation of its relationship with surrounding lexical items, sentence structure, or situational cues, rather than reliance on isolated word knowledge.	2
<i>Lexical inference</i>	Recognition and interpretation of the approximate meaning of unfamiliar or partially familiar vocabulary using contextual information, word-formation elements (e.g. prefixes, suffixes), or examples provided within the text.	2
<i>Lexical distinction</i>	Effective differentiation between words or expressions with related or overlapping meanings, followed by appropriate selection of the option that best fits the context in terms of meaning, usage, or nuance.	2
<i>Lexical appropriacy</i>	Appropriate selection of vocabulary that aligns with the communicative situation, taking into account factors such as topic, level of formality, and communicative intention.	2
2. Grammar		10
<i>Fundamental grammatical forms</i>	Accurate identification of basic grammatical forms, including verb tense, noun–verb agreement, pluralization, and pronoun use, within short and familiar contexts.	2
<i>Contextual grammatical structures</i>	Demonstration of correct application of grammatical structures within sentences by analyzing linguistic cues and situational context, rather than relying on isolated rule knowledge.	3
<i>Complex grammatical patterns</i>	Recognition and application of less frequent or slightly complex structures, such as comparative and superlative forms, conditional phrases, or question formation, using context and sentence patterns to guide selection.	1
<i>Grammatical differentiation</i>	Effective differentiation between closely related grammatical forms (e.g., past simple vs. present perfect, prepositions of place/time) and appropriate selection of the form that ensures semantic and syntactic accuracy.	2
<i>Grammatical appropriacy and cohesion</i>	Appropriate selection of grammatical structures to maintain correctness, clarity, and cohesion in multi-sentence contexts, including the correct use of tense sequences, connectors, and sentence functions.	2
3. Reading comprehension		20
<i>Literal comprehension</i>	Accurate extraction of explicitly stated information from texts, including specific details, factual data, and descriptive elements, ensuring precise understanding of the author’s explicit message.	4
<i>Inferential comprehension</i>	Recognition and synthesis of implicit information by interpreting contextual cues, connecting multiple sentences, and deducing meaning not overtly articulated in the text.	5
<i>Textual cohesion and integration</i>	Appropriate identification and linkage of ideas, sentences, and textual elements to maintain coherence and logical progression, including interpretation of anaphoric references, discourse markers, and sequencing of events.	5
<i>Evaluation and critical interpretation</i>	Analytical assessment of the author’s purpose, tone, perspective, or intent, alongside judgment of the validity, relevance, or reliability of information based on evidence presented within the text.	6

IV. Cognitive Skills Distribution

The scores assigned to each task are determined by considering their complexity, as well as the knowledge, skills, and logical thinking required to solve them.

The following table shows the distribution of test items by cognitive skills and assessment criteria.

Cognitive skills	Definition	# of questions	Score
Knowing (A)	Reproductive-level tasks are designed to assess students' ability to recall and reproduce learned material without further processing. These tasks evaluate knowledge of laws, properties, formulas, concepts, and terms, as well as the ability to remember and recognize them and apply them in familiar situations.	8	1
Applying (B)	Productive-level tasks require students to apply learned rules and formulas in familiar contexts. In these tasks, students perform simple calculations, solve standard problems, and directly apply a given formula or rule.	12	1.25
	More complex productive tasks require students to apply learned rules and formulas in multiple-step and partially unfamiliar situations consciously. Students analyze the problem conditions, select an appropriate solution method, apply several formulas or rules sequentially and logically, and draw intermediate conclusions throughout the solution process.	12	1.25
Analyzing / reasoning (C)	Intellectual-level tasks demand that students apply acquired knowledge and skills in unfamiliar situations, analyze and synthesize information, make comparative evaluations, and apply laws and principles to generalize and draw conclusions.	8	1.5

VII. Assessment Format

Students' proficiency in English is evaluated in the first stage with a total of 68 points.

The content domains, cognitive processes, and assessment criteria for the first stage are presented in the tables below.

VIII. Inclusion and Accommodations

Candidates with special educational needs are granted an additional 15% of the allotted time. The format and presentation of the test items are also adapted to ensure accessibility and convenience for these candidates.

Candidates with visual impairments are permitted to have a special technical assistant read the questions aloud. The assistant may only read the questions and is not allowed to provide the correct answers.

IX. List of recommended references

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