

**National Research University  
Higher School of Economics**

Entrance Examination

Programme

in English

**Moscow**

Entrance examinations at HSE University are organized to establish graduates' mastery of the federal component of the state educational standard for basic general and secondary (complete) general education.

### **Documents Governing Examination Content**

1. The federal component of state educational standards for basic general and secondary (complete) general education, including both basic and field-specific levels (as per Directive of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation No. 1089, dated March 5, 2001);
  2. Sample syllabi for instruction of foreign languages // New state standards for instruction of foreign languages for Grades 2-11 / Education in documents and comments. – M.: AST. Astrel, 2004;
  3. Syllabi of general education institutions. English for Grades 10-11 of schools with advanced instruction in foreign languages. – M.: Prosveshchenie, 2003;
  4. Syllabi for general education institutions. German for schools with advanced instruction in German. – M.: Prosveshchenie, and MART, 2004;
  5. Syllabi for general education institutions. French for Grades 1-11 of schools with advanced instruction in foreign languages. – M.: Prosveshchenie, 2001;
  6. Syllabi for general education institutions. Spanish for Grades 5-11 of schools with advanced instruction in foreign languages. – M.: Prosveshchenie, 2005.
- Furthermore, testing and assessment materials (TAM) shall be developed with due consideration of:
7. All-European foreign language competencies: Study, Teaching and Assessment. – MSLU, 2003.

### **Entrance Examination Format**

Entrance examinations are held in the form of a test. The test is comprised of 6 (six) assignments. Applicants have 90 minutes to complete the assignments (40 minutes are recommended for the “Reading” section; and 50 minutes for the “Grammar and Vocabulary” section). Applicants CANNOT use dictionaries or other reference books while taking entrance examinations.

The following types of assignments will be given at the entrance examination in a foreign language:

- multiple choice out of 4 (four) options;
- open questions with short answers;
- matching exercises.

### **Examination Structure**

The examination shall consist of two parts: ‘Reading’ and ‘Grammar and Vocabulary’. With the aim of differentiating examinees with respect to their proficiency in a foreign language, as per the federal component of the state educational standard for general education in foreign languages, all sections shall include exercises for advanced learners along with tasks for beginners. The task’s level shall be determined by the level of complexity of language materials and tested skills, as well as the type of tasks given. The beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of assignments at the examination correlate with a learner’s language proficiency, as defined by the Council of Europe Regulations as follows:

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Assignments in the 'Reading' section are broken down into three different levels of complexity: Assignment I – beginner; Assignment II – intermediate; Assignment III – advanced.

In the 'Grammar and Vocabulary' section, Assignments IV and V fall within the beginner's level, while Assignment VI (the final assignment) belongs to the intermediate level.

### Tested Elements at the Entrance Examination at HSE University

| Assignment No.  | Elements of contents subject to testing   | Scores |
|---|---|--------|
| <b>Reading</b>  |   |        |
| Assignment I;<br>Beginner's level -<br>7 questions    | Understanding the main contents of messages and signs, simple articles, extracts from fiction, as well as general descriptions of charts, tables, diagrams, etc.  | 7      |
| Assignment II;<br>intermediate level -<br>6 questions | Understanding the structure and logic of literary texts   | 12     |
| Assignment III;<br>advanced level - 7<br>questions    | Full and precise understanding of information in everyday and job-related texts, popular scientific publications, and extracts from fiction.  | 21     |
| <b>Grammar and Vocabulary</b>                         |   |        |
| <b>Grammatical skills (morphology)</b>                |   |        |
| Assignment VI;<br>Beginner's level -<br>7 questions   | Modal verbs and their equivalents ( <i>may, can/be able to, must/have to/should; need, shall, could, might, would</i> ); different grammatical means for expressing the future tense: <i>Simple Future, to be going to, Present Continuous, Present Simple</i> (e.g., The train leaves at 5pm.)   | 14     |
| Assignment V;<br>Beginner's level -<br>6 questions    | Lexical and grammatical skills (word formation)<br><br>Affixes as elements of word formation. Verbal affixes: <i>re-, dis-, mis-; -ize/ise over-, -under-, up-, down-..</i> Affixes used with nouns: <i>-er/or, -ness, -ist, -ship, -ing, -sion/tion ation\ -ion\ -ian, -ance/ence, -ment, -ity. -y, -hood, -age, -dom</i> Affixes used with adjectives: <i>-y, -ic\ -ical, -ful, -al, -ly, -ian/an, -ing, -ous, -ible/able, -less, -ive, inter-, -ish, -ed, -ese, -ent.</i> Suffix added to form adverbs - <i>ly</i> . Negative prefixes: <i>un-, in-/im, dis-, -ir, -il, -</i> Adjectives and verbs formed through linking together several words (e.g., when a pattern of linking two words occurs more frequently, and the first component is usually: <i>easy-, well-, ill-,</i> ). Abbreviations. | 18     |
| Assignment VI;<br>intermediate level -<br>7 questions | Lexical and grammatical skills (meaning of words, lexical and grammatical collocations)<br><br>Polysemantic lexical units. Synonyms. Antonyms.<br><br>Lexical collocations.   | 28     |