

Programme of entry exam in English

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.

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:

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
Reading		
Assignment I; Beginner's level - 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; intermediate level - 6 questions	Understanding the structure and logic of literary texts	12

Assignment III; advanced level - 7 questions	Full and precise understanding of information in everyday and job-related texts, popular scientific publications, and extracts from fiction.	21
Grammar and Vocabulary		

<p>Assignment VI; Beginner's level - 7 questions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grammatical skills (morphology)</p> <p>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.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14</p>
<p>Assignment V; Beginner's level - 6 questions</p>	<p>Lexical and grammatical skills (word formation)</p> <p>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/ion 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>
<p>Assignment VI; intermediate level - 7 questions</p>	<p>Lexical and grammatical skills (meaning of words, lexical and grammatical collocations)</p> <p>Polysemantic lexical units. Synonyms. Antonyms.</p> <p>Lexical collocations.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">28</p>

EXAMPLE LIST OF RECOMMENDED READING AND INTERNET RESOURCES:

1. Cambridge Dictionary (<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>);
2. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries (<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>);
3. Macmillan Dictionary (<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/>);
4. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (<https://www.ldoceonline.com/>);
5. Dictionary by Merriam-Webster (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>);
6. English Vocabulary in Use. Upper-Intermediate (McCarthy, Michael) 2017;
7. Advanced Grammar in Use: A Reference and Practical Book for Advanced Learners of English (Hewings, Martin) 2015;
8. Oxford English Grammar Course (Walter, Catherine) 2019;
9. English Grammar in Use: Self-Study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Learners of English (Murphy, Raymond) 2015.