

State of Israel
Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
English Inspectorate

April, 2004

Dear English Teachers,

The *Meitzav* examinations in English for the eighth grade will include the domains: Social Interaction, Access to Information and Presentation. Not all pupils will be tested on the domain of Social Interaction; only a random sample will be tested on this domain.

The content of the *Meitzav* examinations will be based on the benchmarks for the foundation and intermediate levels as specified in the national curriculum. Attached is the Table of Specification which includes:

- the benchmarks that will be tested for each domain
- the number of tasks for each domain
- the level of the tasks
- possible text types
- possible item types
- assessment criteria

Please note the following:

- Pupils are not allowed to use dictionaries.
- Teachers should tell pupils to look first at the task for accessing information from spoken texts before they listen to the task in order to familiarize themselves with the context of the tasks.

In response to teachers' questions about how best to ensure their pupils' success in the examination, the English Inspectorate recommends that teachers continue teaching and providing learning opportunities for their pupils according to the national curriculum. If you have any questions regarding the *Meitzav* examination, please contact the English Inspector of your school.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judy Steiner
Chief Inspector for English Language Education

Table of Specification of the Meitzav Test: Grade 8

Domain	Relevant Benchmarks	Number of Tasks	Level of Tasks	Possible Text Types	Possible Item Types	Assessment Criteria
Access to Information from Spoken Texts 20%	understand main ideas and supporting details in a text and use this knowledge as needed locate relevant information for a specific purpose	2	sentence level (approximately one minute) text level (approximately two minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conversation • instructions or directions • interview 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • matching • sequence • multiple-choice • sentence completion • open-ended 	comprehension
Access to Information from Written Texts 60%	understand main ideas and supporting details in a text understand structure and conventions of different text types identify explicit opinions and feelings extract information from visual data, such as timetables and graphs extract relevant information for specific purposes	3	sentence level paragraph level text level (approximately 250 words)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • postcard • message • email • notice • advertisement • comic strip • instructions • timetable • graph • short expository text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • matching • multiple-choice • table or chart • sentence completion • open-ended 	comprehension

Table of Specification of the Meitzav Test: Grade 8 (continued)

Domain	Relevant Benchmarks	Number of Tasks	Level of Tasks	Possible Text Types	Possible Item Types	Assessment Criteria
Written Presentation 20%	<p>describe people, places, things and events</p> <p>react to the content of something read or seen</p> <p>produce short piece of coherent writing that conveys personal experiences</p>	2	<p>sentence level (4 sentences with word bank)</p> <p>paragraph level (35-50 words)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • captions • message • postcard • notice • short description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description • friendly letter 	<p>communicative ability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information relevant • varied and appropriate vocabulary <p>accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • correct use of basic grammatical structures • minor spelling mistakes • basic punctuation
Oral Social Interaction (to be administered in a random sample of classes)	<p>answer questions about familiar topics</p> <p>express feelings, likes and dislikes</p> <p>engage in short conversations</p>	1	<p>conversation (3-4 minutes)</p> <p>picture description (2-3 minutes)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conversation • description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide information in reply to questions on familiar topics • describe picture 	<p>communicative ability</p> <p>accuracy</p>