

Table of Specifications of the Meitzav Examination: Eighth Grade 2016

The table of specification is based on the Revised English Curriculum 2014

Domain	Possible Benchmarks	No. of Tasks	Possible Text Types	Length of Texts	Possible Item Types	Possible Categories of Comprehension Questions*
<p>Access to Information from Spoken Texts</p> <p>20%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the general meaning, main ideas and supporting details in a text, and use this knowledge as needed identify the features of different text types and use this knowledge as needed identify facts, feelings and explicit opinions in a text draw inferences in order to identify the points of view in a text, distinguishing fact from opinion 	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advertisement announcement broadcast conversation excerpt from a lesson interview message news / weather report oral presentation radio program report speech story 	<p>Level One</p> <p>approximately 120 seconds</p> <p>Level Two</p> <p>approximately 150 seconds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> filling in a chart / table graphic organizer matching multiple-choice open-ended (e.g. wh-questions) sentence completion sequencing true / false 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> literal inference personal response

Tasks 1 and 2 are listening comprehension tasks, recorded onto a CD which is provided with the exam. Each text has been recorded twice, giving the pupils an opportunity to recheck their answers and better comprehend the text.

Domain	Possible Benchmarks	No. of Tasks	Possible Text Types	Length of Texts	Possible Item Types	Possible Categories of Comprehension Questions*
<p>Access to Information from Written Texts</p> <p>60%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the general meaning, main ideas and supporting details in a text, and use this knowledge as needed identify the features of different text types and use this knowledge as needed identify facts, feelings and explicit opinions in a text draw inferences in order to identify the points of view in a text, distinguishing fact from opinion interpret information from visual data, such as graphs, diagrams, and maps locate relevant information for a specific purpose 	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> advertisement article / report biography book cover brochure comic strip diary entry flyer interview letter / email message notice postcard review short expository text story timetable / schedule web page 	<p>Level one</p> <p>(two texts)</p> <p>approximately 100 – 140 words and 160 – 200 words</p> <p>Level two</p> <p>(one text)</p> <p>approximately 270 – 320 words</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> chart / table graphic organizer matching multiple-choice open-ended (e.g. wh-questions) sentence completion sequencing true / false 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> literal integration inference personal response

Domain	Possible Benchmarks	No. of Tasks	Length of Texts	Possible Text Types	Assessment Criteria
<p>Written Presentation</p> <p>20%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe people, places, things, events and personal experiences in familiar settings react to the content of something read, seen, or heard using the appropriate higher-order thinking skills for this level express ideas and opinions about general topics using main and supporting ideas 	1	70 - 80 words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> article (e.g. for school newspaper) blog friendly letter extended form forum short composition (e.g. opinion, description.) story 	<p>Communicative Ability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relevance clarity of message <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> varied appropriate <p>Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of basic syntactical and grammatical structures (word order and verb form) spelling basic punctuation and capitalization <p>Length</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 70 words

Categories of Comprehension

Lower-Order Thinking Skills (LOTS)

Literal Comprehension: Literal comprehension refers to understanding the explicit meaning of a text. In order to answer literal comprehension questions, students need to locate information given explicitly in the text.

Higher-Order Thinking Skills (HOTS)

Integration: Integration refers to understanding the explicit meaning of a text but also requires accessing information from different parts of the text in order to answer questions. In order to answer questions that involve integration, students need to locate information given explicitly in different parts of the text.

Inference: Inference refers to an understanding of the implicit meaning of a text. In order to answer inference questions, students need to read between the lines.

Personal Response: Personal response refers to questions that require students' personal involvement with the text. In order to answer personal response questions, students have to draw on both their literal understanding of the text and their own knowledge and opinions.

Dictionary Use

Dictionary use is not permitted on the Meitzav English tests. These tests test English language proficiency which includes knowledge of vocabulary expected of the tested age group. The use of a dictionary is not suitable for these tests, although it is an important tool to be used in the process of teaching and learning in the classroom.